



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6261.0.55.001 - Characteristics of Wage and Salary Earners in Regions of Australia, 2000-01

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Summary

Main Features

INTRODUCTION

This electronic release presents regional estimates of the characteristics of wage and salary earners for the year 2000-01 using the Remoteness Structure contained within the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001 (cat. no. 1216.0)**.

The data presented describes the major differences in the characteristics of employees living in urban, regional and remote parts of Australia and should provide regional analysts and service providers with insights about employment activity, shifts in broad level occupations and variations in wage and salary incomes across different age and occupation groups. The data also highlight comparisons of the differing earning levels of employees in the same occupations across regions which may add to the understanding of regional populations and economies. Overall, these data provide valuable and interesting information about the diversity of employees in different parts of the nation.

The estimates of the number of wage and salary earners and their characteristics, including age, sex, occupation and income, have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) program to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies. The ABS wishes to acknowledge the support the ATO has provided in compiling these statistics. All individual income tax statistics provided by the ATO have been in aggregated form only. No information about individual taxpayers has been released to the ABS.

The Remoteness Structure, used as the geographic framework for this study, has been designed to provide an alternative geographic classification for the dissemination of statistics which enables comparison across five broad regions of Australia that are based on remoteness or distance from services. The five remoteness areas are Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia. A brief description and example of each remoteness area is provided in the **APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE**. Further information is also available in **Information Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0) and **Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia, 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001).

Main features for Australia, comparing the characteristics of wage and salary earners between remoteness areas, are provided below and should be read in conjunction with the **Explanatory Notes** and **Glossary**. Links to main features for each remoteness area, which describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners compared with Australia as a whole, are available through the links at the top of this page. Detailed tables for 2000-01 for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the data cubes, while similar tables for 1995-96 to 1999-00 are available from the ABS on request. A list of available

tables is included in the data cubes link below. Requests for detailed tables for previous years can be made to the National Information Service on 1300 135 070, or Mark Nowosilskyj on (08) 8237 7358 or <email mark.now@abs.gov.au>.

The ABS welcomes any comments from readers regarding the usefulness, range and quality of the statistics presented in this publication. Any comments can be forwarded to: The Director, Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre, Australian Bureau of Statistics, GPO Box 2272, Adelaide SA 5001. Alternatively, email <claire.conroy@abs.gov.au> or phone (08) 8237 7368.

Further work is planned to refine and improve the quality of the statistics presented in this electronic release, including compiling similar data for subsequent years. Data for 2001-02 is expected to be available towards the end of 2004. The ABS is also committed to further increasing the availability of regional data by working closely with the ATO and other commonwealth and state government agencies, under the concept of a national statistical service, to identify and present other useful regional statistical indicators from their administrative data sources.

DEFINITION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

For the purposes of the statistics presented in this electronic publication, **wage and salary earners** have been defined as:

persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal (or main source) of income for the financial year.

It should be noted that these data do not take account of whether wage and salary earners worked on a full-time or part-time basis, had overtime earnings or had multiple job holdings. Consequently, these factors may account for some of the differences when comparing average or median wage and salary incomes or other characteristics of wage and salary earners across regions. It should also be noted that the data exclude persons in their own business, such as farmers, who are not wage and salary earners. Further definitional details are contained in the **Explanatory Notes**.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 the number of wage and salary earners increased in both Major Cities and Inner Regional areas but decreased in Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas. However, during this period all remoteness areas recorded positive growth in the level of total wages and salaries paid.
- The median annual wage and salary income for employees in Major Cities is higher than the median for employees in the other remoteness areas. However, the medians for wage and salary earners in Remote and Very Remote Australia are higher than the medians for employees in Inner and Outer Regional areas.
- As the degree of remoteness increases, the proportion of female wage and salary earners in each remoteness class generally decreases.
- Median wage and salary incomes for males are consistently higher than those for females in all remoteness areas.
- The proportion of wage and salary earners in the 45-54 year and 55 years and over age groups generally decreases as remoteness increases.
- In all remoteness classes, median wage and salary income increases with age, peaking in

the 45-54 year age group.

- The proportion of wage and salary earners in the occupation groups Para-professionals, Tradespersons, Plant and machine operators and drivers, and Labourers and related workers generally increases as remoteness increases. Conversely, the proportion in occupation groups such as Salespersons and personal service workers, Professionals and Clerks decreases as remoteness increases.

MAIN FEATURES - AUSTRALIA

In 2000-01, almost 90% of Australia's wage and salary earners were located in Major Cities and Inner Regional areas, with 70.3% and 18.3% in these areas respectively. Outer Regional areas comprised 9.3% while 2.2% of wage and salary earners were residents in the combined Remote and Very Remote areas. In comparison, at 30 June 2001, it was estimated that 66.3% of Australia's total population were resident in Major Cities and 20.7% in Inner Regional areas. The total population was estimated to be 10.4% in Outer Regional and 2.6% in Remote and Very Remote areas combined. As would be expected these proportions broadly indicate the greater availability and centralisation of jobs in the major city areas.

Queensland was the least capital city centric of the five larger states with 56% of its wage and salary earners in Major Cities. In comparison, around three quarters, or 75%, of all employees in each of the other large states, i.e. New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, were resident in their Major Cities. At 30 June 2001, it was estimated that around 52% of Queensland's total population were resident in Major Cities while for NSW, SA and WA the estimate was around 71%. In Victoria, the proportion of all people resident in Major Cities was slightly higher at around 73%.

For the smaller states and territories, two-thirds of Tasmania's wage and salary earner population were resident in Inner Regional areas (Hobart and Launceston) while over one third (37.2%) of the Northern Territory's wage and salary earners were located in Remote (21.6%) and Very Remote (15.6%). The remaining NT wage and salary earner population, 62.8%, was classified as Outer Regional. At 30 June 2001, it was estimated that 46% of the NT's total population were resident in Remote and Very Remote areas. In Tasmania, 63.6% and 34.1% of the total population were residents in Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas respectively.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS BY REMOTENESS AREA, States and Territories, 2000-01

	Major cities %	Inner regional %	Outer regional %	Remote %	Very remote %	Total(a) '000
New South Wales	76.0	17.5	5.7	0.4	0.1	2,534.8
Victoria	76.6	18.9	4.2	0.1	0.0	1,883.8
Queensland	56.0	22.5	17.8	2.5	1.2	1,373.9
South Australia	74.4	11.8	10.4	2.6	0.7	552.0
Western Australia	73.4	11.1	9.0	4.4	2.1	723.3
Tasmania	-	66.0	31.6	1.8	0.6	164.4
Northern Territory	-	-	62.8	21.6	15.6	73.5
Australian Capital Territory	99.7	0.3	-	-	-	146.4
Australia	70.3	18.3	9.3	1.5	0.7	7,439.8

(a) Excludes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Total wage and salary income paid to Australia's wage and salary earners was \$259.6 billion in 2000-01, up from \$247.9 billion in 2000-01 and \$204.2 billion in 1995-96.

Between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 both Major Cities and Inner Regional areas recorded growth in the number of wage and salary earners with increases of 0.7% and 1.0% respectively. This contrasts with decreases in the number of wage and salary earners recorded in Outer Regional, down by 0.7%, Remote (-3.4%) and Very Remote (-1.8%).

Although Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote recorded decreases in the number of wage and salary earners over the latest year, all remoteness areas recorded positive growth in the level of total wage and salary income paid. The growth in Major cities was greatest, in both percentage and absolute terms. Major Cities recorded a 5.0% increase between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 and an average annual rate of increase of 5.2% over the five year period from 1995-96 to 2000-01. In 2000-01, Very Remote areas recorded an increase in total wages and salaries paid of 2.7% over the previous year and an average annual rate of 0.4% between 1995-96 and 2000-01. These growth patterns indicate that wages and salaries paid in Major Cities are increasing at a consistently higher rate than for employees in other regions and that the difference is widening.

As a consequence, Major Cities made up \$190.3 billion, or 73.3%, of total wages and salaries paid in 2000-01 while in Very Remote Australia the amount was \$1.7 billion (0.7% of Australia's total). In 1995-96 total wages and salaries paid to employees in Major Cities accounted for 72.2% (\$147.4 billion) of the Australian total.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Remoteness Area, 1995-96 to 2000-01

							% Change	
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.)								
Major cities	4,972,557	4,984,589	5,083,685	5,148,414	5,192,234	5,227,031	0.7	1.0
Inner regional	1,286,490	1,292,080	1,317,926	1,336,494	1,348,102	1,361,808	1.0	1.1
Outer regional	685,063	686,672	695,281	695,557	693,249	688,313	-0.7	0.1
Remote	120,047	121,525	122,077	118,161	116,388	112,428	-3.4	-1.3
Very remote	62,564	62,057	61,848	53,204	51,171	50,232	-1.8	-4.3
Australia(b)	7,166,722	7,188,213	7,313,428	7,380,064	7,434,529	7,471,989	0.5	0.8

WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$m)								
Major cities	147,390	153,901	163,793	172,735	181,247	190,313	5.0	5.2
Inner regional	33,202	34,718	36,745	38,552	40,107	41,975	4.7	4.8
Outer regional	17,399	18,180	19,067	19,710	20,067	20,747	3.4	3.6
Remote	3,418	3,634	3,763	3,770	3,756	3,797	1.1	2.1
Very remote	1,653	1,701	1,753	1,672	1,643	1,688	2.7	0.4
Australia(b)	204,211	213,378	226,043	237,367	247,877	259,612	4.7	4.9

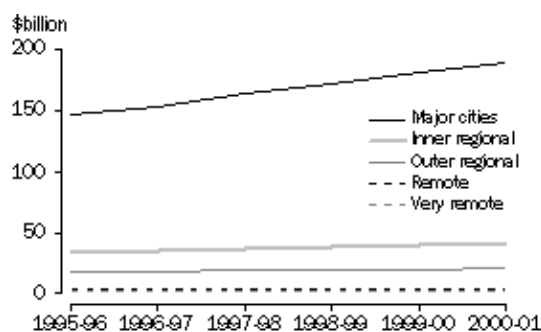
(a) Average annual rate of increase.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently, changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Remoteness Area, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

For the financial year 2000-01, the median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Australia was \$30,470. This was an increase of 3.3% over the previous year (\$29,509) and a 15.8% increase on the median in 1995-96 (\$26,309). The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 3.2%. (Note: The median is the mid value which divides a population distribution into two, with half of the observations falling below it and half above it. Median wage and salary income has been calculated from data provided in ranges and therefore the distribution within a range has been assumed to be even. Care should be taken when using the data and the median treated as an estimate only).

The Major Cities remoteness category has consistently had the highest median annual wage and salary income over the period 1995-96 to 2000-01, while in 2000-01 Remote and Very Remote areas had the next highest medians with \$29,296 and \$29,137 per annum respectively. The higher medians in Remote and Very Remote areas are likely to be influenced by high wages and salaries paid to employees in the mining industry, which is concentrated in these regions of Australia, as well as higher wages offered to employees in general to attract them to work in these remote regions. Remote and Very Remote areas also had the greatest percentage change between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 with increases of 4.5% and 4.4% respectively.

The Outer Regional remoteness category had the lowest median wage and salary income, \$27,451 in 2000-01, while Inner Regional recorded the smallest percentage increase between 1999-2000 and 2000-01 at 2.9%.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Remoteness Area, 1995-96 to 2000-01

							% Change	
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
Major cities	26,974	27,895	28,827	29,778	30,742	31,775	3.4	3.3
Inner regional	24,177	24,988	25,714	26,495	27,164	27,951	2.9	2.9
Outer regional	23,651	24,504	25,194	26,100	26,494	27,451	3.6	3.0
Remote	24,839	25,965	26,656	27,823	28,037	29,296	4.5	3.4
Very remote	22,369	22,950	23,754	27,495	27,904	29,137	4.4	5.4
Australia(b)	26,309	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

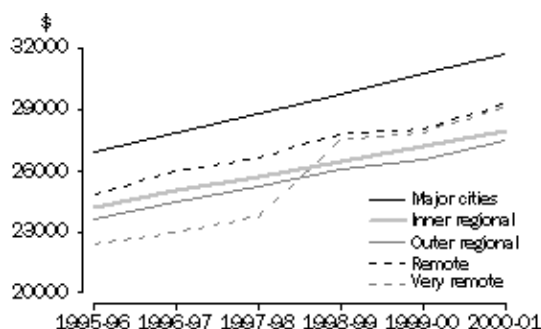
(a) Average annual rate of increase.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently, changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME(a), by Remoteness Area, 1995-96 to 2000-01



(a) Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently, changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were 3.99 million male (54.8%) and 3.49 million female (45.2%) wage and salary earners in Australia. Although Major Cities accounted for most wage and salary earners the proportion of males generally increased in each class as the degree of remoteness increased. The proportion of male wage and salary earners in Major Cities was 52.8% in 2000-01 compared with 56.4% in Remote areas and 55.1% in Very Remote areas.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

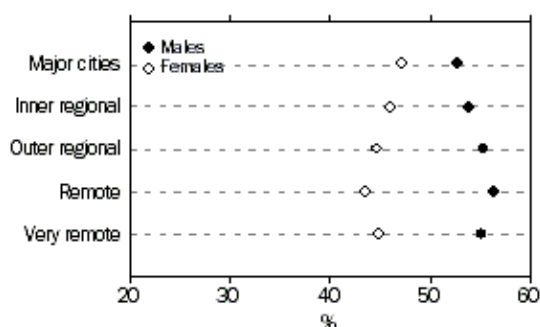
	Males no.	Females no.	Persons no.	Percentage within remoteness class	
				Males %	Females %
Major cities	2,762,303	2,464,701	5,227,004	52.8	47.2
Inner regional	734,552	627,248	1,361,800	53.9	46.1
Outer regional	380,825	307,481	688,306	55.3	44.7
Remote	63,419	49,021	112,440	56.4	43.6
Very remote	27,686	22,568	50,254	55.1	44.9
Australia(a)	3,986,424	3,485,559	7,471,983	54.8	45.2

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Median wage and salary incomes for males were consistently higher than those for females in all remoteness areas in 2000-01. The differential between male and female median incomes was over \$10,000 in each region with the highest differences in Remote and Very Remote areas (\$14,674 and \$12,650 respectively). Median incomes for females tended to be reasonably similar in all areas outside Major Cities.

Part of the disparity between male and female median wage and salary income is attributable to the differences in the number of hours worked. Females are more likely to be employed on a part-time basis than males, while males are more likely to work overtime. Females also frequently occupy lower paid positions (**Australian Social Trends, 2002**, (cat. no. 4102.0), Work: employment arrangements, p 132).

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

	Males \$	Females \$	Persons \$
Major cities	37,709	26,306	31,775
Inner regional	33,865	22,498	27,951
Outer regional	32,728	22,107	27,451
Remote	36,920	22,246	29,296
Very remote	35,879	23,229	29,137
Australia(a)	36,403	25,091	30,470

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Sex and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The proportion of wage and salary earners in each age group varies within each of the remoteness structure classes. The 25-34 year age group accounted for the largest proportion of wage and salary earners in Major Cities, Remote and Very Remote areas, at around 27% to 28%, while in both Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas the 35-44 year age group accounted for the largest proportion (around 26% to 27%).

In the 25-34 year age group the proportion of wage and salary earners outside of Major Cities increased as the degree of remoteness increased. For example, in 2000-01, 22.2% of wage and salary earners were aged 25-34 in Inner Regional areas rising to 27.7% in Very Remote areas. Conversely, the proportion of wage and salary earners in both the 45-54 year and 55 years and

over age groups generally decreased as remoteness increased.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.)						
Major cities	999,808	1,412,022	1,259,081	1,067,358	488,687	5,226,956
Inner regional	265,954	302,518	350,807	309,800	132,710	1,361,789
Outer regional	137,052	165,764	175,643	145,449	64,464	688,372
Remote	21,634	30,135	29,281	21,899	9,469	112,418
Very remote	8,779	13,931	13,400	9,966	4,182	50,258
Australia(a)	1,439,796	1,934,530	1,835,272	1,560,156	702,214	7,471,968

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (Percentage within Remoteness class)

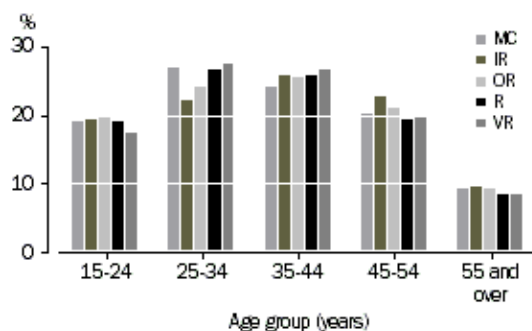
Major cities	19.1	27.0	24.1	20.4	9.3	100.0
Inner regional	19.5	22.2	25.8	22.7	9.7	100.0
Outer regional	19.9	24.1	25.5	21.1	9.4	100.0
Remote	19.2	26.8	26.0	19.5	8.4	100.0
Very remote	17.5	27.7	26.7	19.8	8.3	100.0
Australia(a)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

In all remoteness classes, the median wage and salary income increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group. Individuals in this age group often experience increased earning capacity due to factors such as promotions, increased qualifications and experience.

The median annual wage and salary income was highest in Major Cities for all age groups except for those aged 15-24 years where Very Remote areas recorded the highest median income (\$17,307). Overall, as the degree of remoteness increased, median wage and salary income for persons aged 15-24 increased. It is likely that persons in this age group in remote areas are more likely to be working full-time rather than undertaking study and working part-time, which is more common, particularly in Major Cities, for this age group (which would have the effect of lowering the median).

In 2000-01, Outer Regional areas had the lowest median annual wage and salary income for all age groups except the 15-24 year age group. Across all age groups the medians were greater in

Remote and Very Remote areas than in the Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas. This again is likely to reflect the industry mix in each of these broad regions.

The highest median annual wage and salary income, \$37,605, was recorded in Major Cities in the 45-54 year age group. The lowest median, \$14,922, was in the Inner Regional areas for those aged 15-24 years.

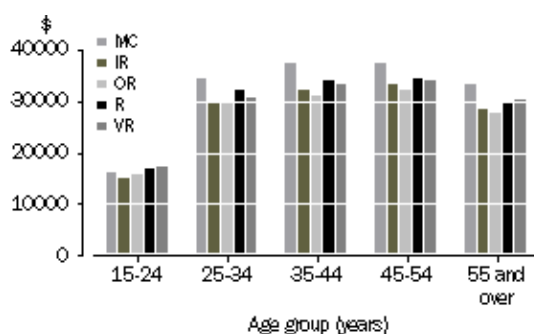
MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

	15-24 years \$	25-34 years \$	35-44 years \$	45-54 years \$	55 years and over \$	Total \$
Major cities	16,043	34,509	37,308	37,605	33,439	31,775
Inner regional	14,922	30,105	32,233	33,413	28,698	27,950
Outer regional	15,901	29,852	31,239	32,043	27,707	27,450
Remote	16,990	32,165	33,884	34,423	29,694	29,277
Very remote	17,307	30,687	33,577	34,026	30,270	29,133
Australia(a)	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

(a) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Age Group and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The proportion of wage and salary earners in each occupation group varies within each of the remoteness structure classes. The occupation groups Para-professionals, Tradespersons, Plant and machine operators and drivers and Labourers and related workers, all generally increased in proportion as remoteness increased. This reflects the skills required in the major industry sectors of primary production and mining that are more prevalent in areas outside of Major Cities.

Occupation groups such as Salespersons and personal service workers, Professionals and Clerks tended to decrease in proportion as remoteness increased.

Occupation data compiled from the ATO database includes a high proportion of wage and salary earners for whom the occupation was not stated or not coded. Care should therefore be taken when analysing the occupation distribution. Over the period for which this series has been compiled, the proportion of persons in the "not stated" category has decreased each year from around 27% in 1995-96 to 20% in 2000-01. It should also be noted that the proportion in the "not stated" category decreases with remoteness and may account for some of the apparent differences in occupations in the different remoteness classes. In Major Cities 21.2% of wage

and salary earners did not state their occupation in 2000-01, decreasing to 13.1% in Very Remote areas. Further information is contained in the **Glossary** under Occupation.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

	Managers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Para- profess- ionals	Trades- persons	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service workers	Plant and machine opera- tors and drivers	Labour- ers and related workers	Not stated	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (no.)										
Major cities	513,598	764,841	288,869	498,079	680,235	633,906	199,110	542,434	1,105,928	5,227,000
Inner regional	117,731	155,727	87,790	158,450	151,651	172,936	74,615	190,898	251,945	1,361,743
Outer regional	59,366	70,213	42,319	80,194	73,255	85,413	40,372	123,996	113,181	688,309
Remote	9,824	11,340	7,074	14,253	11,782	12,159	7,315	22,932	15,750	112,429
Very remote	4,642	5,349	3,907	6,093	5,789	5,086	3,357	9,463	6,580	50,266
Australia(b)	708,354	1,012,100	431,717	759,424	926,287	912,632	325,816	892,666	1,502,931	7,471,927

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS (Percentage within Remoteness class)										
Major cities	9.8	14.6	5.5	9.5	13.0	12.1	3.8	10.4	21.2	100.0
Inner regional	8.6	11.4	6.4	11.6	11.1	12.7	5.5	14.0	18.5	100.0
Outer regional	8.6	10.2	6.1	11.7	10.6	12.4	5.9	18.0	16.4	100.0
Remote	8.7	10.1	6.3	12.7	10.5	10.8	6.5	20.4	14.0	100.0
Very remote	9.2	10.6	7.8	12.1	11.5	10.1	6.7	18.8	13.1	100.0
Australia(b)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0

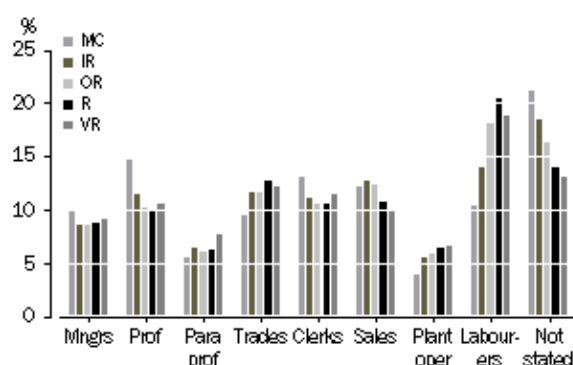
(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

In 2000-01, the median annual wage and salary income for Managers and administrators substantially decreased outside of Major Cities. The median in Major Cities, at \$45,072 per annum, was approximately \$10,000 per annum higher than for any other remoteness region. Professionals had the highest median in all remoteness classes except for Very Remote areas

where Plant and machine operators and drivers had the highest median income.

Salespersons and personal service workers had the lowest median annual wage and salary income in every remoteness class. This reflects the nature of the retail industry where a substantial proportion of the workforce is employed on a part-time or casual basis. In Major Cities, Salespersons and personal service workers had a median annual wage and salary income of \$23,193 while in Remote areas it was \$19,458.

For the occupation groups Professionals, Para-professionals and Tradespersons the median annual wage and salary income was lowest in the Inner Regional and Outer Regional areas. In contrast, Clerks had the highest median in Major Cities with \$29,731, while all other areas were around \$25,500 per annum.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2000-01

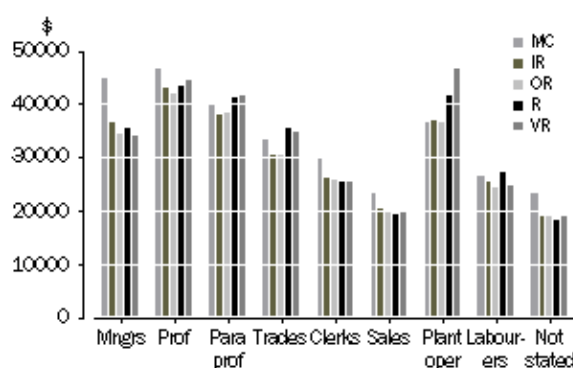
	Managers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Para- professionals	Trades- persons	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service workers	Plant and machine opera- tors and drivers	Labour- ers and related workers	Not stated	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Major cities	45,072	46,488	40,290	33,293	29,731	23,193	36,702	26,557	23,412	31,775
Inner regional	36,582	43,033	37,945	30,663	25,991	20,269	36,909	25,267	18,738	27,950
Outer regional	34,353	42,048	38,211	30,589	25,718	19,961	36,751	24,379	19,007	27,449
Remote	35,696	43,322	41,393	35,426	25,513	19,458	41,744	27,094	18,277	29,307
Very remote	34,150	44,304	41,680	34,832	25,273	20,162	46,708	24,726	18,776	29,132
Australia(b)	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

(b) Total includes data that could not be allocated to a remoteness category.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Occupation(a) and Remoteness Area, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Major Cities of Australia

INTRODUCTION

Major Cities of Australia are defined in the remoteness structure as those areas where

geographic distance imposes minimal restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction. Parts of Australia that are classified to Major Cities include Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Melbourne, Geelong, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. There are no areas classified as Major Cities in Tasmania or the Northern Territory. Further details regarding all Remoteness Structure areas, including a map, are provided in the accompanying **APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE**

The following main features describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Major Cities of Australia compared with Australia as a whole and should be read in conjunction with the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY**. Links to main features for other Remoteness Structure areas are situated on the **Main Features - Australia** page, which also highlights comparisons between each remoteness class. Detailed tables for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the data cubes.

MAIN FEATURES - MAJOR CITIES OF AUSTRALIA

For the financial year 2000-01 there were 5.23 million wage and salary earners located in Australia's Major Cities. This represents an increase of 5.1% since 1995-96 and a 0.7% increase over the number of wage and salary earners in 1999-2000. The average annual rate of growth over the last five years has been 1.0%. In 2000-01, 70.3% of all wage and salary earners in Australia were located in Major Cities. This compares with 67.5% of the estimated resident population aged between 15 and 64 years, the primary ages when people are in the labour force.

Total wage and salary income paid to Australia's wage and salary earners in Major Cities was \$190.3 billion in 2000-01. This was \$9.1 billion (or 5.0%) more than in 1999-2000 and \$42.9 billion (29.1%) more than recorded in 1995-96. The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 5.2%, compared with an Australian average annual increase of 4.9%.

The median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Major Cities in 2000-01 was \$31,775. This was an increase of 3.4% over the previous year (\$30,742) and a 17.8% increase on the median in 1995-96 (\$26,974). The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 3.3%. This compares with the Australian average annual increase of 3.2% over the same period. In 2000-01, the median was \$1,305 (or 4.3%) higher than the median for total Australia and has been consistently above the Australian median for the five years shown.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Major Cities, 1995-96 to 2000-01

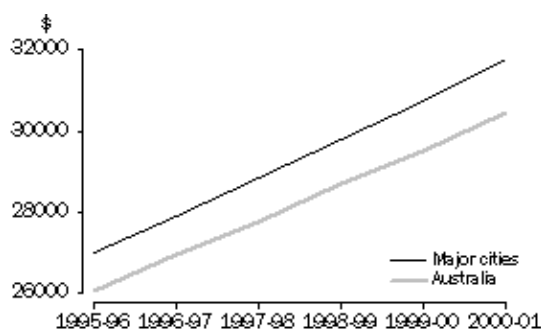
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change	
							1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
Wage and salary earners (no.)	4,972,557	4,984,589	5,083,685	5,148,414	5,192,234	5,227,031	0.7	1.0
Wage and salary income (\$m)	147,390	153,901	163,793	172,735	181,247	190,313	5.0	5.2
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,974	27,895	28,827	29,778	30,742	31,775	3.4	3.3
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,039	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

(a) Average annual rate of increase.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, Major Cities and Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were 2.76 million (52.8%) male and 2.46 million (47.2%) female wage and salary earners in Major Cities of Australia. These proportions differ from those for total Australia (54.8% male and 45.2% female), showing that proportionally more females are employed in Major Cities than in other regions. Males had a median annual wage and salary income of \$37,709 while for females it was \$26,306. In comparison, the national medians were \$36,403 for males and \$25,091 for females. Part of the large disparity between male and female median wage and salary incomes is attributable to differences in the number of hours worked per week. Females are more likely to be employed on a part-time basis and males are more likely to work overtime. Females also frequently occupy lower paid positions (**Australian Social Trends, 2002**, (cat. no. 4102.0), Work: employment arrangements, p 132).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex, Major Cities, 2000-01

	Males	Females	Persons
Wage and salary earners (no.)	2,762,303	2,464,701	5,227,004
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	37,709	26,306	31,775
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,403	25,091	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, 27.0% of wage and salary earners in Major Cities were in the 25-34 year age group compared with 25.9% for the whole of Australia. The 35-44 year age group contained a further 24.1% while the 15-24 year age group accounted for 19.1% and the 55 years and over age group 9.3%.

For all age groups the median annual wage and salary income was greater in Major Cities than for Australia overall. Within Major Cities, the median was lowest in the 15-24 year age group (\$16,043). This age group includes persons beginning their employment careers on low wages, youth receiving less than adult wages and, especially in the case of students, often working on a part-time or casual basis.

Median wage and salary income increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group (\$37,605) reflecting the increased earning capacity of individuals as they reach this age range, due to factors such as promotions, increased qualifications and experience. The 55 years and over age group had a lower median wage and salary income (\$33,439). This can be attributed to factors such as people with higher incomes retiring from the workforce as self-funded retirees, while some persons in this age group may continue in the workforce on a part-time basis.

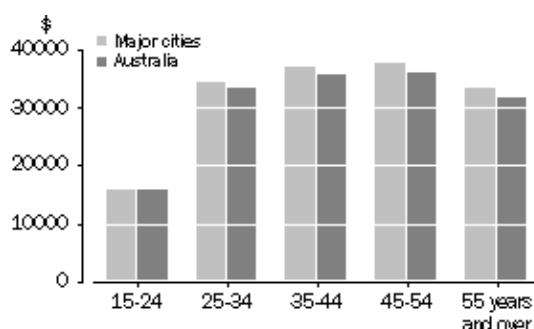
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Age Group, Major Cities, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS						
Major cities (no.)	999,808	1,412,022	1,259,081	1,067,358	488,687	5,226,956
Major cities (%)	19.1	27.0	24.1	20.4	9.3	100.0
Australia (%)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0
MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)						
Major cities	16,043	34,509	37,308	37,605	33,439	31,775
Australia	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY AGE GROUP, Major Cities and Australia, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups for Major Cities shows some variation when compared with total Australia. In Major Cities, the occupation groups Managers and administrators (9.8%), Professionals (14.6%) and Clerks (13.0%) accounted for a greater proportion of wage and salary earners than Australia overall. Conversely, Para-professionals (5.5%), Plant and machine operators and drivers (3.8%) and Labourers and related workers (10.4%) were among the groups that had lower proportions than the Australian level. (Note: Wage and salary earners who did not state their occupation accounted for more than 20% of wage and salary earners for both Major Cities and total Australia).

Higher median wage and salary incomes were generally recorded for all occupation groups in Major Cities than for total Australia. The largest difference was for Managers and administrators (\$45,072 for Major Cities compared with \$42,061 for Australia). Plant and machine operators and drivers were the exception with a median wage and salary income marginally lower than the Australian level, \$36,702 compared with \$36,925 for Australia as a whole.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a), Major Cities, 2000-01

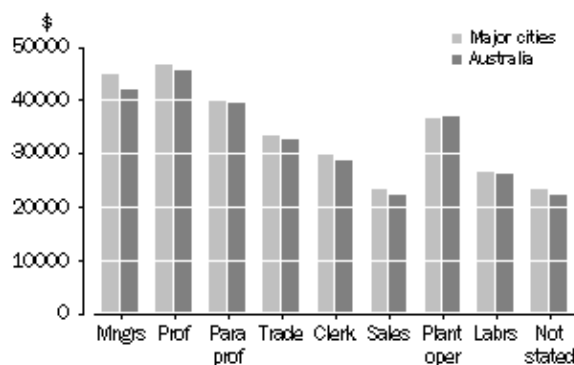
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Major cities (no.)	513,598	764,841	288,869	498,079	680,235	633,906	199,110	542,434	1,105,928	5,227,000
Major cities (%)	9.8	14.6	5.5	9.5	13.0	12.1	3.8	10.4	21.2	100.0
Australia (%)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0
MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)										
Major cities	45,072	46,488	40,290	33,293	29,731	23,193	36,702	26,557	23,412	31,775
Australia	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY OCCUPATION(a), Major Cities and Australia, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The distribution of male and female wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows substantial variation. In particular, the Tradespersons, Clerks and Salespersons and personal service workers groups were heavily dominated by the one sex. For males, Tradespersons (16.0%) and Professionals (14.8%) accounted for the largest proportion in Major Cities in 2000-01, while the largest proportion of females were in the Clerks (22.1%) and Sales and personal service workers (16.6%) groups. Para-professionals (4.6%) and Clerks (4.9%) were the occupation groups with low male representation. Females were less represented as Tradespersons (2.3%) and Plant and machine operators and drivers (1.0%).

Interestingly, while male Managers and administrators accounted for 12.4% of all male employees, compared with 6.9% for females, the proportions were almost identical for Professionals with males accounting for 14.8% and females 14.4%.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Occupation(a) by Sex, Major Cities 2000-01

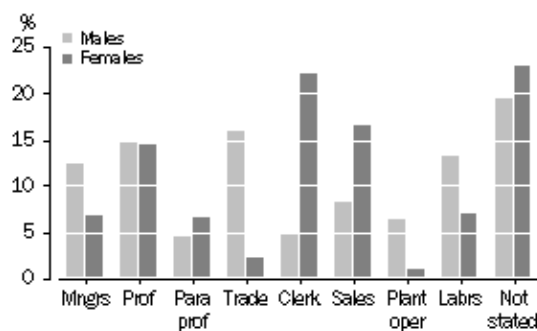
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
Males (no.)	343,063	410,022	126,130	441,864	134,361	225,351	174,808	367,364	539,369	2,762,332
Females (no.)	170,546	354,784	162,776	56,202	545,875	408,547	24,412	175,056	566,570	2,464,768
Males (%)	12.4	14.8	4.6	16.0	4.9	8.2	6.3	13.3	19.5	100.0
Females (%)	6.9	14.4	6.6	2.3	22.1	16.6	1.0	7.1	23.0	100.0
Australia										
Males (%)	11.9	13.3	4.6	16.9	4.3	7.7	7.3	15.4	18.7	100.0
Females (%)	6.7	13.9	7.1	2.5	21.7	17.4	1.0	8.0	21.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Sex, Major Cities, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The proportional distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups also shows variation across each age group. The largest proportion of employees in Major Cities was Professionals aged 25-34 years (4.6%), while Professionals aged 35-44 years accounted for 4.0%. Sales and personal service workers in the 15-24 year age group accounted for 3.7%, with the proportion decreasing as age increased. For all occupation groups, apart from Salespersons and personal service workers, representation peaks in either the 25-34 year or 35-44 year age groups. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 21.2% of all wage and salary earners in Major Cities).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Age by Occupation(a), Major Cities, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	no.
Managers and administrators	0.5	2.4	2.9	2.7	1.3	513,532
Professionals	1.2	4.6	4.0	3.4	1.4	764,808
Para-professionals	0.4	1.5	1.7	1.4	0.5	288,895
Tradespersons	2.1	2.8	2.2	1.6	0.8	498,150
Clerks	1.9	3.5	3.3	3.0	1.3	680,211

Salespersons and personal service workers	3.7	3.4	2.4	1.8	0.8	12.1	633,944
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.3	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.5	3.8	199,115
Labourers and related workers	1.8	2.6	2.6	2.2	1.1	10.4	542,378
Not stated	7.2	5.1	3.8	3.4	1.7	21.21	105,939
Total	19.1	27.0	24.1	20.4	9.4	100.05	226,972
Total (no.)	999,813	1,411,933	1,259,120	1,067,334	488,772		-5,226,972

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The following table shows the distribution of wage and salary income by occupation group as a proportion of all employees. Professionals with an annual wage and salary income of \$52,000 or more accounted for 5.8% of all wage and salary earners in Major Cities in 2000-01. Managers and administrators in this income range also accounted for 3.8% of all employees.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Wage and Salary Income by Occupation(a), Major Cities, 2000-01

	\$1 to less than \$10,400	\$10,400 to less than \$20,800	\$20,800 to less than \$31,200	\$31,200 to less than \$41,600	\$41,600 to less than \$52,000	\$52,000 or more	Total
PROPORTION (%)							
Managers and administrators	0.3	0.8	1.4	1.8	1.6	3.8	9.8
Professionals	0.7	1.3	1.7	2.3	2.8	5.8	14.6
Para-professionals	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.4	5.5
Tradespersons	0.7	1.5	2.1	2.2	1.5	1.5	9.5
Clerks	1.4	2.4	3.2	3.4	1.6	1.1	13.0
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.4	3.0	2.9	1.8	0.9	1.1	12.1
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	3.8
Labourers and related workers	1.4	2.1	3.0	2.1	1.0	0.8	10.4
Not stated	5.6	4.0	3.9	3.2	1.9	2.5	21.2
Total	13.0	16.2	19.8	19.0	13.2	18.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Inner Regional Australia

MAIN FEATURES - INNER REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

Inner Regional Australia is defined in the remoteness structure as those areas where geographic distance imposes some restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction. Parts of Australia classified to Inner Regional include Tamworth and Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, Ballarat and Bendigo in Victoria, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Gladstone in Queensland, the Adelaide Hills region in South Australia, Bunbury in Western Australia and Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania. There are no

areas classified to Inner Regional in the Northern Territory. Darwin is classified as Outer Regional. Further details regarding all Remoteness Structure areas, including a map, are provided in the accompanying **APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE**.

The following main features describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Inner Regional Australia compared with Australia as a whole and should be read in conjunction with the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY**. Links to main features for other Remoteness Structure areas are situated on the **Main Features - Australia** page, which also highlights comparisons between each remoteness class. Detailed tables for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the **data cubes**.

MAIN FEATURES - INNER REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

During 2000-01 there were 1.36 million wage and salary earners located in Inner Regional Australia. This represents an increase of 5.9% since 1995-96 and a 1.0% increase over the number of wage and salary earners in 1999-2000. The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 1.1%. In 2000-01, 18.3% of all wage and salary earners in Australia were located in Inner Regional areas. This compares with 19.8% of the estimated resident population aged between 15 and 64 years, the primary ages when people are in the labour force.

Total wage and salary income paid to employees in Inner Regional Australia in 2000-01 was \$42.0 billion. This was \$1.9 billion (4.7%) more than the previous year and \$8.8 billion (26.4%) more than recorded in 1995-96. The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 4.8%, just marginally below the Australian average annual rate of increase of 4.9%.

For the financial year 2000-01, the median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Inner Regional was \$27,951, up by 2.9% over the previous year (\$27,164). Since 1995-96 the median has increased by 15.6% from \$24,177, or at an average annual rate of 2.9%. This was slightly lower than the Australian average annual rate of increase of 3.2% over the same period.

In 2000-01, the median annual wage and salary income in Inner Regional areas was \$2,519 or 8.3% lower than the median for Australia. In 1995-96 the difference was \$1,862 or 7.2%. In 2000-01, the median in Inner Regional was marginally above the median for Outer Regional areas (\$27,451) and lower than the medians for all other remoteness classes.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Inner Regional, 1995-96 to 2000-01

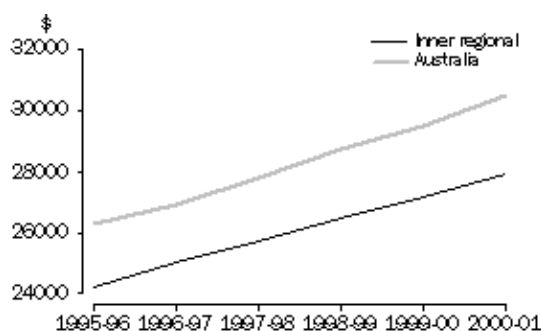
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change	
							1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
Wage and salary earners (no.)	1,286,490	1,292,080	1,317,926	1,336,494	1,348,102	1,361,808	1.0	1.1
Wage and salary income (\$m)	33,202	34,718	36,745	38,552	40,107	41,975	4.7	4.8
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	24,177	24,988	25,714	26,495	27,164	27,951	2.9	2.9
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,309	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

(a) Average annual rate of increase.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, Inner Regional and Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were around 734,600 (53.9%) male and 627,200 (46.1%) female wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas. These proportions differ slightly to those for total Australia (54.8% male and 45.2% female). The median annual wage and salary income for males was \$33,865 while for females it was \$22,498, compared with national median wage and salary incomes of \$36,403 for males and \$25,091 for females.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Sex, Inner Regional, 2000-01

	Males	Females	Persons
Wage and salary earners (no.)	734,552	627,248	1,361,800
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	33,865	22,498	27,951
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,403	25,091	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The 35-44 year age group accounted for the greatest proportion (25.8%) of wage and salary earners in Inner Regional in 2000-01 compared with 24.6% of employees in this age group for all of Australia. In contrast, 22.2% of wage and salary earners were aged between 25-34 years. This was below the 25.9% in this age group for Australia where the 25-34 year age group had the largest proportion of employees. This is consistent with the movement of young people away from regional areas to the major cities in search of employment and other lifestyle opportunities.

Median wage and salary incomes were lower in Inner Regional areas than for Australia overall for all age groups. Within Inner Regional areas, median annual wage and salary income for employees was lowest in the 15-24 year age group (\$14,922) and then increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group (\$33,413). This reflects the increased earning capacity of individuals as they reach this age range, due to factors such as promotions, increased qualifications and experience and is a general pattern evident in all remoteness areas. The over 55 year age group had the second lowest median income of all age groups, at \$28,698.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Age Group, Inner Regional, 2000-01

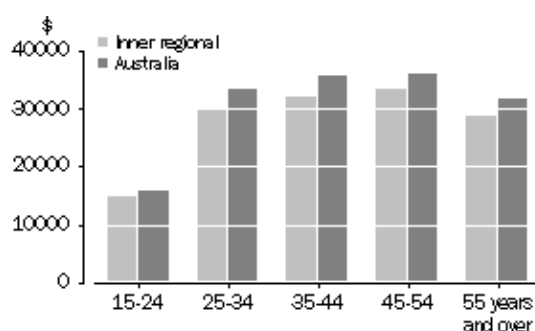
	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS						
Inner regional (no.)	265,954	302,518	350,807	309,800	132,710	1,361,789
Inner regional (%)	19.5	22.2	25.8	22.7	9.7	100.0
Australia (%)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)						
Inner regional	14,922	30,105	32,233	33,413	28,698	27,950
Australia	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY AGE GROUP, Inner Regional and Australia, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows some variation between Inner Regional areas and total Australia. The most common occupation groups in Inner Regional were Labourers and related workers (14.0%), Salespersons and personal service workers (12.7%) and Tradespersons (11.6%). The proportions of wage and salary earners for these groups were also greater than for the same groups at the Australia level. Professionals (11.4%), Clerks (11.1%), and Managers and administrators (8.6%) all had lower proportions of wage and salary earners than for Australia as a whole. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 18.5% of all wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas and 20.1% for Australia).

The occupation group, Professionals, had the highest median annual wage and salary income (\$43,033) for Inner Regional areas while Salespersons and personal service workers had the lowest (\$20,269). All occupation groups recorded lower median wage and salary incomes in Inner Regional than for Australia. This was particularly so for Managers and administrators who had a median annual wage and salary income of \$36,582 compared with \$42,061 for Australia.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a), Inner Regional, 2000-01

Managers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Para- professionals	Trades- persons	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
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WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

Inner regional (no.)	117,731	155,727	87,790	158,450	151,651	172,936	74,615	190,898	251,945	1,361,743
Inner regional (%)	8.6	11.4	6.4	11.6	11.1	12.7	5.5	14.0	18.5	100.0
Australia (%)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)

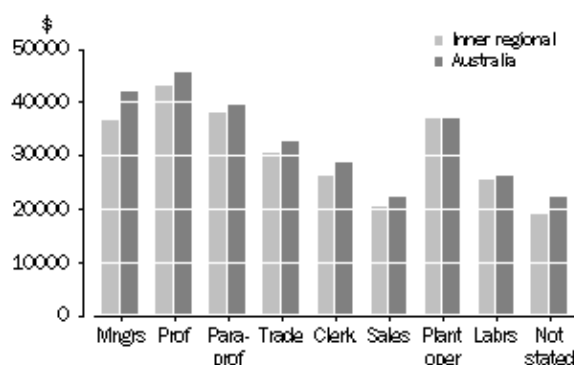
Inner regional	36,582	43,033	37,945	30,663	25,991	20,269	36,909	25,267	18,738	27,950
Australia	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY OCCUPATION(a), Inner Regional and Australia, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The distribution of male and female wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows substantial variation. Tradespersons (19.1%) and Labourers and related workers (18.0%) accounted for the largest proportion of male wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas in 2000-01. In contrast, the largest proportion of females occurred in the Clerks (20.5%) and Sales and personal service workers (19.3%) groups.

Clerks accounted for 3.1% of male wage and salary earners, while females were least represented in the Plant and machine operators and drivers group (0.9%).

In the occupation group Professionals, there was a higher proportion of female wage and salary earners (12.6%) than males (10.5%) with females outnumbering males by over 2,100 persons. Similarly, the number of female Para-professionals was almost 19,500 higher than the number of males in 2000-01. Proportionally, female Para-professionals accounted for 8.6% of wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas while males accounted for 4.7%. Para-professionals includes Registered Nurses which is a predominantly female occupation group.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Occupation(a) by Sex, Inner Regional 2000-01

Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal	Plant and machine operators	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
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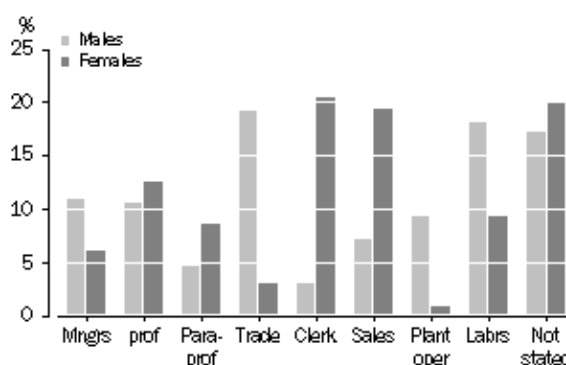
							service workers	tors and drivers		
Males (no.)	80,028	76,795	34,172	139,935	22,963	52,104	68,671	132,498	127,380	734,546
Females (no.)	37,723	78,936	53,649	18,521	128,701	120,824	5,943	58,389	124,575	627,261
Males (%)	10.9	10.5	4.7	19.1	3.1	7.1	9.3	18.0	17.3	100.0
Females (%)	6.0	12.6	8.6	3.0	20.5	19.3	0.9	9.3	19.9	100.0
Australia										
Males (%)	11.9	13.3	4.6	16.9	4.3	7.7	7.3	15.4	18.7	100.0
Females (%)	6.7	13.9	7.1	2.5	21.7	17.4	1.0	8.0	21.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Sex, Inner Regional, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The proportional distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows variation within each age group. The largest proportion of wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas were Salespersons and personal service workers aged 15-24 years (3.8%), Labourers and related workers aged 35-44 years (3.7%) and Professionals aged 45-54 years (3.5%). (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 18.5% of all wage and salary earners in Inner Regional areas).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Age by Occupation(a), Inner Regional, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
Managers and administrators	0.5	1.6	2.5	2.7	1.4	8.6	117,730
Professionals	0.8	2.6	3.3	3.5	1.2	11.4	155,721
Para-professionals	0.4	1.4	2.2	1.9	0.7	6.5	87,860
Tradespersons	2.8	3.2	2.8	1.9	0.8	11.6	158,452
Clerks	1.3	2.5	3.3	2.9	1.1	11.1	151,629
Salespersons and personal service workers	3.8	3.1	2.8	2.2	0.8	12.7	172,933
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.3	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.8	5.5	74,624
Labourers and related workers	2.6	3.2	3.7	3.0	1.5	14.0	190,897
Not stated	7.1	3.4	3.3	3.2	1.5	18.5	251,971
Total	19.5	22.2	25.8	22.7	9.7	100.0	1,361,917
Total (no.)	265,978	302,537	350,797	309,775	132,730	-	1,361,817

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The following table shows the distribution of wage and salary income by occupation group as a proportion of all employees. Labourers and related workers, with an annual wage and salary income in the range \$20,800 to less than \$31,200, accounted for 4.0% of all wage and salary earners in Inner Regional in 2000-01, while Professionals, with wage and salary income over \$52,000 accounted for 3.7%. Salespersons and personal service workers who had an annual wage and salary income of \$10,400 to less than \$20,800 also accounted for 3.7% of all employees.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Wage and Salary Income by Occupation(a), Inner Regional, 2000-01

	\$1 to less than \$10,400	\$10,400 to less than \$20,800	\$20,800 to less than \$31,200	\$31,200 to less than \$41,600	\$41,600 to less than \$52,000	\$52,000 or more	Total
PROPORTION (%)							
Managers and administrators	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.4	2.0	8.6
Professionals	0.7	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.3	3.7	11.4
Para-professionals	0.3	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	6.4
Tradespersons	0.9	2.1	3.0	2.7	1.5	1.5	11.6
Clerks	1.4	2.6	3.3	2.5	0.9	0.5	11.1
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.8	3.7	3.5	1.6	0.6	0.5	12.7
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.1	5.5
Labourers and related workers	2.2	3.1	4.0	2.6	1.1	1.1	14.0
Not stated	6.1	4.0	3.5	2.3	1.3	1.3	18.5
Total	15.1	19.2	22.8	18.3	11.4	13.1	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Outer Regional Australia

INTRODUCTION

Outer Regional Australia is defined in the remoteness structure as those areas where geographic distance imposes a moderate restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction. Parts of Australia classified to Outer Regional include Broken Hill, Griffith, Gunnedah (New South Wales), Horsham, Swan Hill, Traralgon (Victoria), Roma, Cairns (Queensland), Port Augusta, Mount Gambier (South Australia), Albany (Western Australia), Burnie (Tasmania), and Darwin (Northern Territory). The Australian Capital Territory has no area classified as more remote than Inner Regional. Further details regarding all Remoteness Structure areas, including a map, are provided in the accompanying **APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE**

The following main features describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional Australia compared with Australia as a whole and should be read in conjunction with the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY** Links to main features for other Remoteness Structure areas are situated on the **Main Features - Australia** page,

which also highlights comparisons between each remoteness class. Detailed tables for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the **data cubes**.

MAIN FEATURES - OUTER REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

For the financial year 2000-01, there were approximately 688,300 wage and salary earners located in Outer Regional Australia. This represents an increase of 0.5% since 1995-96 and a 0.7% decrease over the number of wage and salary earners in 1999-2000. In 2000-01, 9.2% of all wage and salary earners in Australia were located in Outer Regional areas. This compares with 10.1% of the estimated resident population aged between 15 and 64 years, the primary years when people are in the labour force.

Total wage and salary income paid to Australia's wage and salary earners in Outer Regional was \$20.7 billion in 2000-01. This was \$0.7 billion (3.4%) more than in 1999-2000 and \$3.3 billion (19.2%) more than reported in 1995-96. The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 3.6% compared with an Australian average annual increase of 4.9%.

For the financial year 2000-01, the median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Outer Regional was \$27,451. This was an increase of 3.6% over the previous year (\$26,494) and a 16.1% increase on the median in 1995-96 (\$23,651). The average annual rate of increase over the last five years has been 3.0%. This compares with the Australian average annual increase of 3.2% over the same period.

In 2000-01, the median annual wage and salary income in Outer Regional was \$3,019 (9.9%) lower than the median for Australia. This compares with a difference of \$2,658 (10.1%) in 1995-96. The absolute difference between the median annual wage and salary earner income for Outer Regional and Australia has been gradually widening over the period 1996-97 to 2000-01.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Outer Regional, 1995-96 to 2000-01

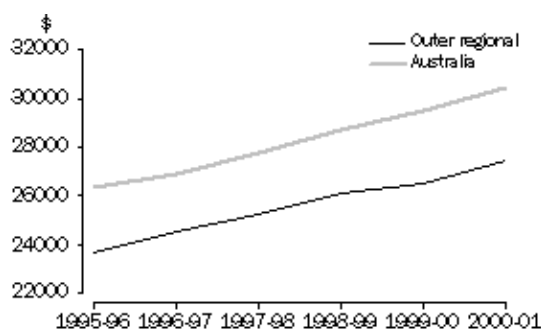
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change	
							1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
Wage and salary earners (no.)	685,063	686,672	695,281	695,557	693,249	688,313	-0.7	0.1
Wage and salary income (\$m)	17,399	18,180	19,067	19,710	20,067	20,747	3.4	3.6
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	23,651	24,504	25,194	26,100	26,494	27,451	3.6	3.0
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,309	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

(a) Average annual rate of increase.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP projects may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, Outer Regional and Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were around 380,800 (55.3%) male and 307,500 (44.7%) female wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas. These proportions were similar to those for total Australia (54.8% male and 45.2% female). The median annual wage and salary income for males was \$32,728 while for females it was \$22,107, compared with national median wage and salary incomes of \$36,403 for males and \$25,091 for females.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Sex, Outer Regional, 2000-01

	Males	Females	Persons
Wage and salary earners (no.)	380,825	307,481	688,306
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	32,728	22,107	27,451
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,403	25,091	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The 35-44 year age group accounted for the greatest proportion (25.5%) of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional in 2000-01 compared with 24.6% for all of Australia. The 25-34 year age group in Outer Regional contained 24.1% of wage and salary earners.

Within Outer Regional, the median wage and salary income was lowest in the 15-24 year age group (\$15,901). As is evident in all remoteness areas, median wage and salary income increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group (\$32,043) reflecting the increased earning capacity of individuals as they reach this age range, due to factors such as promotions, increased qualifications and experience.

Median annual wage and salary income in 2000-01 was lower in Outer Regional than the Australian figure for all age groups, except for wage and salary earners aged 15-24 years.

The over 55 year age group had the second lowest median of the five age groups with \$27,707. This can generally be attributed to factors such as people with higher incomes retiring from the workforce as self-funded retirees, while some persons in this age group may continue in the workforce on a part-time basis.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Age Group, Outer Regional, 2000-01

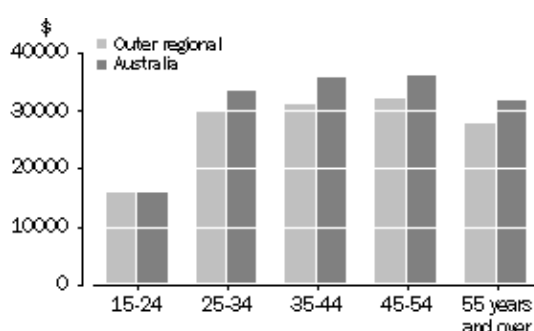
15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 years	Total
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	years	years	years	years	and over	
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS						
Outer regional (no.)	137,052	165,764	175,643	145,449	64,464	688,372
Outer regional (%)	19.9	24.1	25.5	21.1	9.4	100.0
Australia (%)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0

MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)						
Outer regional	15,901	29,852	31,239	32,043	27,707	27,450
Australia	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY AGE GROUP, Outer Regional and Australia, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows some variation between Outer Regional areas and Australia. The occupation groups Labourers and related workers (18.0%), Salespersons and personal service workers (12.4%) and Tradespersons (11.7%) had the largest proportions of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional. These proportions were also greater than for the same groups at the Australia level. Clerks (10.6%), Professionals (10.2%) and Managers and administrators (8.6%) all had lower proportions of wage and salary earners than at the Australia level. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 16.4% of all wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas and 20.1% for Australia overall).

The occupation group Professionals had the highest median annual wage and salary income (\$42,048) in Outer Regional areas. Salespersons and personal service workers had the lowest median income with \$19,961. All occupation groups recorded lower median wage and salary incomes in Outer Regional than at the Australia level. This was particularly so for Managers and administrators (\$36,582) where the difference exceeded \$7,700 in 2000-01.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a), Outer Regional, 2000-01

Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
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WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

Outer regional (no.)	59,366	70,213	42,319	80,194	73,255	85,413	40,372	123,996	113,181	688,309
Outer regional (%)	8.6	10.2	6.1	11.7	10.6	12.4	5.9	18.0	16.4	100.0
Australia (%)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0

MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)

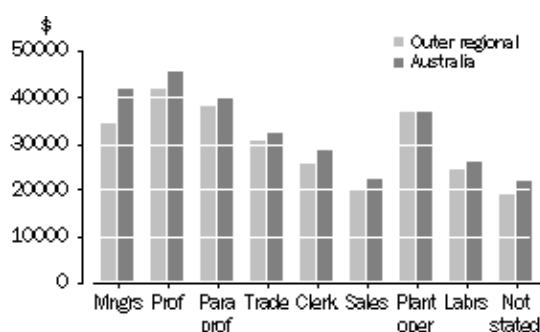
Outer regional	34,353	42,048	38,211	30,589	25,718	19,961	36,751	24,379	19,007	27,449
Australia	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY OCCUPATION(a), Outer Regional and Australia, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The distribution of male and female wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows substantial variation. Labourers and related workers (23.3%) and Tradespersons (18.5%) accounted for the largest proportion of male wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas in 2000-01. These traditionally male dominated occupation groups are heavily connected with industries such as agriculture and mining which are more common in these regions of Australia. In contrast, the largest proportion of females occurred in the Clerks (20.5%) and Sales and personal service workers (20.1%) groups.

Clerks only accounted for 2.6% of male wage and salary earners, while females were least represented in the Plant and machine operators and drivers group (0.8%).

In the occupation group Professionals, females outnumbered males by over 5,600 persons. Female Professionals represent 12.3% of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional with males accounting for 8.5%, compared with 13.9% nationally for females and 13.3% for males. In contrast the number of male Managers and administrators exceeded the number of females by almost 21,000 persons. Proportionally, Managers and administrators accounted for 10.5% of male wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas while this group accounted for 6.2% of females.

Apart from a slight increase in Very Remote areas there is an overall decline in the proportion of male Professionals as remoteness increases. This trend is quite different for females with the proportion of Professionals increasing with remoteness from Outer Regional to Very Remote areas.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Occupation(a) by Sex, Outer Regional 2000-01

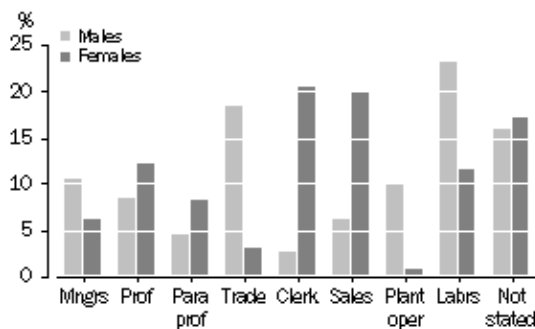
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
Males (no.)	40,149	32,295	16,963	70,533	10,060	23,702	38,092	88,537	60,451	380,782
Females (no.)	19,215	37,899	25,411	9,618	63,081	61,683	2,339	35,498	52,699	307,443
Males (%)	10.5	8.5	4.5	18.5	2.6	6.2	10.0	23.3	15.9	100.0
Females (%)	6.2	12.3	8.3	3.1	20.5	20.1	0.8	11.5	17.1	100.0
Australia										
Males (%)	11.9	13.3	4.6	16.9	4.3	7.7	7.3	15.4	18.7	100.0
Females (%)	6.7	13.9	7.1	2.5	21.7	17.4	1.0	8.0	21.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Individual Income Tax Data.

PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, by Occupation(a) and Sex, Outer Regional, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The proportional distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows variation within each age group. The largest proportions of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas were in the categories Labourers and related workers aged 35-44 years (4.7%) and 25-34 years (4.3%). Sales and personal service workers aged 15-24 years accounted for 3.7% of wage and salary earners in Outer Regional. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 16.4% of all wage and salary earners in Outer Regional areas).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Age by Occupation(a), Outer Regional, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	no.
Managers and administrators	0.5	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.3	8.6 59,344
Professionals	0.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	1.0	10.2 70,206
Para-professionals	0.4	1.5	2.0	1.7	0.6	6.2 42,351
Tradespersons	2.9	3.3	2.8	1.9	0.8	11.6 80,160
Clerks	1.4	2.6	3.1	2.5	0.9	10.6 73,155
Salespersons and personal service workers	3.7	3.2	2.8	2.0	0.7	12.4 85,408

Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.4	1.4	1.8	1.5	0.8	5.9	40,473
Labourers and related workers	3.5	4.3	4.7	3.7	1.8	18.0	124,034
Not stated	6.3	3.4	2.9	2.6	1.3	16.4	113,145
Total	19.9	24.1	25.5	21.1	9.4	100.0	688,276
Total (no.)	137,089	165,278	175,647	145,379	64,443		- 688,276

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The following table shows the distribution of wage and salary income by occupation group as a proportion of all employees. 5.0% of all wage and salary earners in Outer Regional in 2000-01 were Labourers and related workers with an annual wage and salary income in the range \$20,800 to less than \$31,200. A further 4.2% of all employees were also Labourers and related workers with wages in the range \$10,400 to less than \$20,800. Professionals earning over \$52,000 per annum made up 3.1% of all wage and salary earners in Outer Regional.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Wage and Salary Income by Occupation(a), Outer Regional, 2000-01

	\$1 to less than \$10,400	\$10,400 to less than \$20,800	\$20,800 to less than \$31,200	\$31,200 to less than \$41,600	\$41,600 to less than \$52,000	\$52,000 or more	Total
PROPORTION (%)							
Managers and administrators	0.6	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.7	8.6
Professionals	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	3.1	10.2
Para-professionals	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.3	6.1
Tradespersons	0.9	2.1	3.0	2.6	1.5	1.6	11.7
Clerks	1.4	2.5	3.1	2.4	0.9	0.4	10.6
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.8	3.7	3.5	1.5	0.5	0.4	12.4
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.3	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.0	1.2	5.9
Labourers and related workers	3.1	4.2	5.0	3.1	1.2	1.4	18.0
Not stated	5.3	3.5	3.0	2.2	1.3	1.1	16.4
Total	15.3	19.8	23.3	18.4	11.1	12.2	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Remote Australia

INTRODUCTION

Remote Australia is defined in the remoteness structure as those areas where geographic distance imposes a high restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction. Parts of Australia classified as Remote include Cobar (New South Wales), the northern Wimmera district (Victoria), Charters Towers and Cooktown (Queensland), Port Lincoln (South Australia), the Kalgoorlie gold-fields (Western Australia), parts of West Coast Tasmania, Alice Springs and Katherine (Northern Territory). Further details regarding all Remoteness Structure areas, including a map, are provided in the accompanying

APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE

The following main features describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Remote Australia compared with Australia as a whole and should be read in conjunction with the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY** Links to main features for other Remoteness Structure areas are situated on the **Main Features - Australia** page, which also highlights comparisons between each remoteness class. Detailed tables for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the data cubes.

It should be noted that in the statistics presented below Indigenous persons engaged in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) may be included in the data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 but excluded for 1998-99 onwards. The general effect of this is that the number of wage and salary earners may be overstated and median wage and salary income understated for the first three years of this series. The effect on the total amount of wages and salaries paid is not significant. Consequently, analysis of changes between these particular groups of years for the number of wage and salary earners and median wage and salary incomes need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** paragraphs 33 to 37.

MAIN FEATURES - REMOTE AUSTRALIA

For the financial year 2000-01, there were approximately 112,400 wage and salary earners located in Remote areas of Australia. Since the previous year, the number has decreased by 3.4% from around 116,400, continuing the downward trend over the last few years.

In 2000-01, wage and salary earners in Remote areas comprised 1.5% of all employees in Australia. In comparison, 1.7% of the estimated resident population aged between 15 and 64 years, the primary years when people are in the labour force, were resident in these remote areas.

Total wage and salary income paid to Australia's wage and salary earners in Remote areas was \$3.8 billion in 2000-01. This was \$41.1m (1.1%) more than in 1999-2000 and \$378m (11.1%) more than reported in 1995-96. The average annual rate of increase for total wages paid in Remote areas over the last five years has been 2.1% compared with the Australian average annual increase of 4.9%.

For the financial year 2000-01, the median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Remote areas was \$29,296. This was an increase of 4.5% over the previous year (\$28,037) and higher than the annual increase of 3.3% for all employees in Australia.

In 2000-01, the median annual wage and salary income in Remote areas was \$1,174 or 3.9% lower than the median for Australia. The median for Remote areas is higher than the median for all other remoteness areas except Major Cities. The higher median wage and salary income in Remote areas is influenced by high wages and salaries paid to employees in the mining industry in particular, which is concentrated in these as well as Very Remote regions, as well as higher wages offered to employees in general to attract them to work in these remote regions.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Remote, 1995-96 to 2000-01

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change	
							1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
Wage and salary earners (no.)	120,047	121,525	122,077	118,161	116,388	112,428	-3.4	-1.3

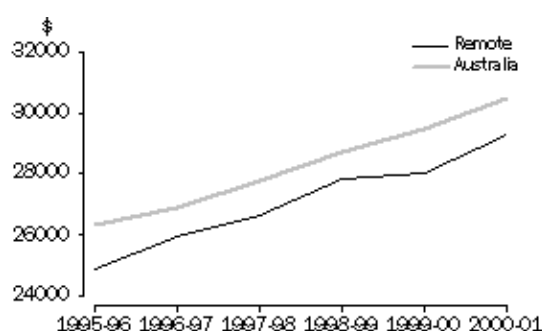
Wage and salary income (\$m)	3,418	3,634	3,763	3,770	3,756	3,797	1.1	2.1
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	24,839	25,965	26,656	27,823	28,037	29,296	4.5	3.4
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,309	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

(a) Average annual rate of increase.

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP projects may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, Remote and Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP projects may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were around 63,400 (56.4%) male and 49,000 (43.6%) female wage and salary earners in Remote areas. These proportions differ from those for total Australia (54.8% male and 45.2% female), indicating a more male dominated employee workforce. The median annual wage and salary income for males was \$36,920 while for females it was \$22,246, compared with national median wage and salary incomes of \$36,403 for males and \$25,091 for females. While the median for males was higher in Remote areas than for Australia as a whole, the median for females was significantly less than the national figure.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Sex, Remote, 2000-01

	Males	Females	Persons
Wage and salary earners (no.)	63,419	49,021	112,440
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,920	22,246	29,296
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,403	25,091	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The 25-34 year age group accounted for the greatest proportion (26.8%) of wage and salary earners in Remote areas in 2000-01 while the 35-44 year age group comprised 26.0%. These proportions were slightly higher than those for Australia as a whole which were 25.9% and 24.6% respectively.

In 2000-01, median annual wage and salary incomes were lower in Remote areas than the Australian figure for all age groups except for wage and salary earners aged 15-24 years. For this age group the median (\$16,990) was the second highest of all remoteness areas. It is likely that persons aged 15-24 are more likely to be working full-time rather than undertaking study and working part-time (which would have the effect of lowering the median).

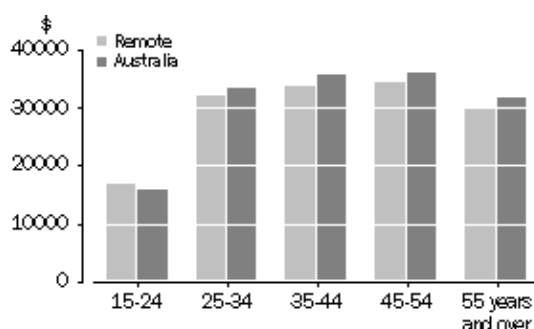
Within Remote areas, the median income was lowest in the 15-24 year age group (\$16,990) and increased with age, peaking in the 45-54 year age group (\$34,423).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Age Group, Remote, 2000-01

	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 years and over	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS						
Remote (no.)	21,634	30,135	29,281	21,899	9,469	112,418
Remote (%)	19.2	26.8	26.0	19.5	8.4	100.0
Australia (%)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0
MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)						
Remote	16,990	32,165	33,884	34,423	29,694	29,277
Australia	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY AGE GROUP, Remote and Australia, 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows some variation between Remote areas and all of Australia. The occupation groups Labourers and related workers (20.4%) and Tradespersons (12.7%) had the largest proportions of wage and salary earners in Remote areas. These proportions were greater than for the same groups at the Australia level. This difference is possibly attributable to employment in the agricultural and mining industries that require unskilled and semi-skilled labour.

The occupation groups Clerks (10.5%) and Professionals (10.1%) had lower proportions of wage and salary earners in Remote areas than at the Australia level. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 14.0% of all wage and salary earners in Remote areas and 20.1% for Australia overall).

The occupation group Professionals had the highest median annual wage and salary income (\$43,322) in Remote areas, but was still lower than the median for this occupation group in Australia as a whole (\$45,549) while Salespersons and personal service workers had the lowest median with \$19,458. Several occupation groups had higher median annual wage and salary incomes in Remote areas than for Australia. This was particularly so for Plant and machine operators and drivers (\$41,744), Para-professionals (\$41,393) and Tradespersons (\$35,426). These occupation groups are common in industries such as mining which are more common in remote areas.

Conversely, Managers and administrators (\$35,696) had a median wage and salary income almost \$6,400 below the Australian figure in 2000-01.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a), Remote, 2000-01

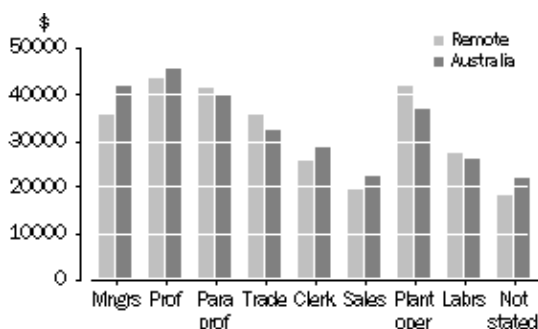
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Remote (no.)	9,824	11,340	7,074	14,253	11,782	12,159	7,315	22,932	15,750	112,429
Remote (%)	8.7	10.1	6.3	12.7	10.5	10.8	6.5	20.4	14.0	100.0
Australia (%)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0
MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)										
Remote	35,696	43,322	41,393	35,426	25,513	19,458	41,744	27,094	18,277	29,307
Australia	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY OCCUPATION(a), Remote and Australia, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The distribution of male and female wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows substantial variation. Labourers and related workers (26.6%), and Tradespersons (19.8%) accounted for the largest proportion of male wage and salary earners in Remote areas in 2000-01. These occupation groups are common in the agriculture and mining sectors which are prevalent in remote areas of Australia.

In contrast, the largest proportion of females occurred in the Clerks (21.4%) and Sales and personal service workers (19.3%) groups. The occupation group Clerks accounted for 2.1% of male wage and salary earners, while females were less represented in the Plant and machine operators and drivers group (0.9%).

In the occupation group Professionals, females had a higher proportion of wage and salary earners (12.8%) than males (8.1%). The numerical difference was almost 1,200 persons

Apart from a slight increase in Very Remote areas there is an overall decline in the proportion of male Professionals as remoteness increases. This trend is quite different for females with the proportion of Professionals increasing with remoteness from Outer Regional to Very Remote areas. This may partly be due to more women being employed in industries such as Health and community services and Education. A similar trend is also evident for Managers and administrators.

Conversely, the proportion of male Para-professionals increases with remoteness from Outer Regional to Very Remote areas while for females the proportion declines from Inner Regional to Remote areas before increasing in Very Remote.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Occupation(a) by Sex, Remote, 2000-01

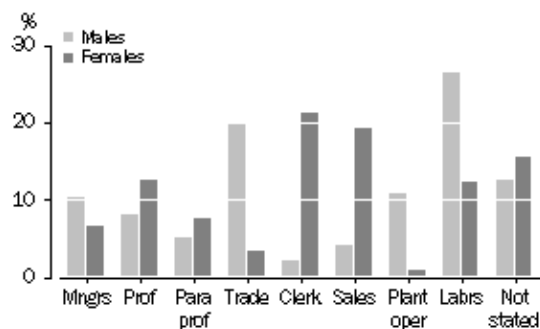
	Managers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Para- profess- ionals	Trades- persons	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
Males (no.)	6,590	5,109	3,268	12,580	1,326	2,617	6,901	16,901	8,140	63,432
Females (no.)	3,233	6,285	3,788	1,694	10,467	9,454	449	6,022	7,632	49,024
Males (%)	10.4	8.1	5.2	19.8	2.1	4.1	10.9	26.6	12.8	100.0
Females (%)	6.6	12.8	7.7	3.5	21.4	19.3	0.9	12.3	15.6	100.0
Australia										
Males (%)	11.9	13.3	4.6	16.9	4.3	7.7	7.3	15.4	18.7	100.0
Females (%)	6.7	13.9	7.1	2.5	21.7	17.4	1.0	8.0	21.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Individual Income Tax Data.

PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a) and Sex, Remote, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The proportional distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows variation within each age group. The largest proportion of wage and salary earners in Remote areas was Labourers and related workers aged 35-44 years. Each age range for this occupation group, except those aged 55 years and over, contained 4.0% or more of the total number of wage and salary earners in Remote areas. Tradespersons aged 25-34 years comprised 3.9% of all wage and salary earners while Professionals in the same age group comprised 3.4%. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 14.0% of all wage and salary earners in Remote areas).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Age by Occupation(a), Remote, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
Managers and administrators	0.5	1.8	2.7	2.5	1.3	8.7	9,826
Professionals	0.9	3.4	2.8	2.2	0.8	10.1	11,382
Para-professionals	0.4	1.8	2.0	1.5	0.6	6.3	7,058
Tradespersons	3.0	3.9	3.1	1.9	0.8	12.7	14,313
Clerks	1.5	3.0	3.1	2.1	0.7	10.5	11,783
Salespersons and personal service workers	3.1	3.0	2.5	1.6	0.5	10.7	12,040
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.5	1.7	2.0	1.6	0.8	6.5	7,359
Labourers and related workers	4.0	5.2	5.4	4.0	1.8	20.4	22,915
Not stated	5.3	3.0	2.5	2.2	1.0	14.0	15,729
Total	19.3	26.8	26.0	19.4	8.4	100.0	112,405
Total (no.)	21,681	30,136	29,267	21,861	9,460	-	112,405

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The following table shows the distribution of wage and salary income by occupation group as a proportion of all employees. Labourers and related workers with wage and salary income in the range \$20,800 to less than \$31,200 accounted for 4.6% of all wage and salary earners in Remote areas and a further 4.3% had salaries in the range \$10,400 to less than \$20,800. In addition, Labourers with annual wages above \$52,000 made up 3.9% of all employees in Remote areas.

The prevalence of mining activities in Remote areas contributes to the proportion of wage and salary earners with high annual wages and salaries. In addition to Labourers and related workers, Tradespersons accounted for 3.5% of all employees with annual incomes above \$52,000, Professionals accounted for 3.4% and Plant and machine operators and drivers, 2.3%.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Wage and Salary Income by Occupation(a), Remote, 2000-01

	\$1 to less than \$10,400	\$10,400 to less than \$20,800	\$20,800 to less than \$31,200	\$31,200 to less than \$41,600	\$41,600 to less than \$52,000	\$52,000 or more	Total
PROPORTION (%)							
Managers and administrators	0.6	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.3	2.1	8.7
Professionals	0.6	1.1	1.3	1.7	2.0	3.4	10.1
Para-professionals	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.9	6.3
Tradespersons	0.9	1.9	2.6	2.3	1.5	3.5	12.7
Clerks	1.5	2.4	2.9	2.2	0.9	0.6	10.5
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.7	3.1	3.0	1.3	0.4	0.3	10.8
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.3	0.6	0.9	1.4	1.0	2.3	6.5
Labourers and related workers	3.2	4.3	4.6	3.0	1.4	3.9	20.4
Not stated	4.7	3.0	2.5	1.6	1.0	1.2	14.0
Total	14.9	18.3	20.6	16.5	10.6	19.1	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

Very Remote Australia

INTRODUCTION

Very Remote Australia is defined in the remoteness structure as those areas where geographic distance imposes the highest restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction. Parts of Australia classified to Very Remote include the far west parts of New South Wales and Queensland, northern South Australia and Western Australia, most of the Northern Territory and Flinders and King Islands in Bass Strait (Tasmania). No part of Victoria is classified as Very Remote. Further details regarding all Remoteness Structure areas, including a map, are provided in the accompanying **APPENDIX - REMOTENESS STRUCTURE**

The following main features describe the major differences in the characteristics of wage and salary earners in Very Remote Australia compared with Australia as a whole and should be read in conjunction with the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY** Links to main features for other Remoteness Structure areas are situated on the **Main Features - Australia** page, which also highlights comparisons between each remoteness class. Detailed tables for each state and territory, by remoteness class, can be accessed through the data cubes.

It should be noted that in the statistics presented below Indigenous persons engaged in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) may be included in the data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 but excluded for 1998-99 onwards. The general effect of this is that the number of wage and salary earners may be overstated and median wage and salary income understated for the first three years of this series. The effect on the total amount of wages and salaries paid is not significant. It is possible that these changes in the reporting of CDEP participants may affect Very Remote more than any other remoteness region, therefore, analysis of changes between these particular groups of years for the number of wage and salary earners and median wage and salary incomes need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** , paragraphs 33 to 37.

MAIN FEATURES - VERY REMOTE AUSTRALIA

For the financial year 2000-01, approximately 50,200 wage and salary earners were located in Very Remote areas of Australia. This represents a decrease of 1.8% on the number of wage and salary earners in 1999-2000 continuing the downward trend over the last few years. In 2000-01, 0.7% of all wage and salary earners in Australia were located in Very Remote areas. This compares with 0.9% of the estimated resident population aged between 15 and 64 years, the primary years when people are in the labour force.

Total wage and salary income paid to Australia's wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas was \$1.7 billion in 2000-01. This was \$45.0m (2.7%) more than in 1999-2000.

For the financial year 2000-01, the median individual annual wage and salary income for wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas was \$29,137. This was an increase of 4.4% over the previous year (\$27,904) and higher than the annual increase of 3.3% for all employees in Australia. In 2000-01, the median annual wage and salary income in Very Remote areas was \$1,333 (4.4%) lower than the median for Australia.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Very Remote, 1995-96 to 2000-01

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change	
							1999-00 to 2000-01	1995-96 to 2000-01(a)
Wage and salary earners (no.)	62,564	62,057	61,848	53,204	51,171	50,232	-1.8	-4.3
Wage and salary income (\$m)	1,653	1,701	1,753	1,672	1,643	1,688	2.7	0.4
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	22,369	22,950	23,754	27,495	27,904	29,137	4.4	5.4
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	26,309	26,919	27,775	28,705	29,509	30,470	3.3	3.2

Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP projects may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, Very Remote and Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Note: Indigenous persons engaged in CDEP projects may be included in the above data for the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 and excluded for 1998-99 onwards. Consequently changes between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution. For further details please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In 2000-01, there were around 27,700 (55.1%) male and 22,600 (44.9%) female wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas. These proportions are similar to those for total Australia (54.8% male and 45.2% female). The median annual wage and salary income for males was \$35,879 while for females it was \$23,229, compared with national median wage and salary incomes of \$36,403 for males and \$25,091 for females. While the median for males in Very Remote areas was slightly lower than for Australia as a whole, the median for females was significantly less than the national figure.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Sex, Very Remote, 2000-01

	Males	Females	Persons
Wage and salary earners (no.)	27,686	22,568	50,254
Median annual wage and salary income (\$)	35,879	23,229	29,137
Australian median annual wage and salary income (\$)	36,403	25,091	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The 25-34 year age group accounted for the greatest proportion (27.7%) of wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas in 2000-01 while the 35-44 year age group contained 26.7%. Both of these age groups contained proportionally more wage and salary earners than for all of Australia.

The annual median wage and salary income was lower in Very Remote areas than the Australian figure for all age groups in 2000-01, except for wage and salary earners aged 15-24 years. For this age group the median (\$17,307) was the highest of all remoteness areas. It is likely that persons in Very Remote areas aged 15-24 are more likely to be working full-time rather than undertaking study and working part-time (which would have the effect of lowering the median).

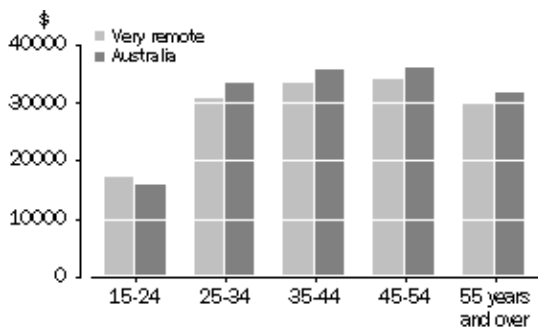
Within Very Remote areas, the annual median wage and salary income was lowest in the 15-24 year age group and then increased with age, reaching a peak in the 45-54 year age group (\$34,026). This pattern is evident across all remoteness areas.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Age Group, Very Remote, 2000-01

	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 years and over	Total
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS						
Very remote (no.)	8,779	13,931	13,400	9,966	4,182	50,258
Very remote (%)	17.5	27.7	26.7	19.8	8.3	100.0
Australia (%)	19.3	25.9	24.6	20.9	9.4	100.0
MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)						
Very remote	17,307	30,687	33,577	34,026	30,270	29,133
Australia	15,815	33,320	35,632	36,193	31,835	30,470

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

**MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY AGE GROUP,
Very Remote and Australia, 2000-01**



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OCCUPATION DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows some variation between Very Remote areas and all of Australia. The occupation groups Labourers and related workers (18.8%) and Tradespersons (12.1%) had the largest proportions of wage and salary earners within Very Remote areas with the proportions being greater than for the same groups at the Australia level. This difference may be attributable to employment in the agricultural and mining industries that require unskilled and semi-skilled labour.

The occupation groups Clerks (11.5%), Professionals (10.6%), Salespersons and personal service workers (10.1%) and Managers and administrators (9.2%) were the only groups that had lower proportions of employees than at the Australia level. (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 13.1% of all wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas and 20.1% for Australia overall).

The occupation group Plant and machine operators and drivers had the highest median annual wage and salary income (\$46,708) in Very Remote areas reflecting the usage of complex machinery in the mining industry as well as the extra payments made to attract skilled workers to these remote regions. Salespersons and personal service workers had the lowest median employee income with \$20,162. The occupation groups Plant and machine operators and drivers, Para-professionals (\$41,680) and Tradespersons (\$34,832) had higher medians in Very Remote areas than for Australia overall. Although Professionals had the second highest annual median wage and salary income (\$44,304) in Very Remote areas, this was still below the figure for Australia overall for this occupation group.

Managers and administrators (\$34,150) had a median wage and salary income over \$7,900 below the Australian figure in 2000-01.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a), Very Remote, 2000-01

Managers and admini- strators	Profess- ionals	Para- profess- ionals	Trades- persons	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
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WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

Very remote (no.)	4,642	5,349	3,907	6,093	5,789	5,086	3,357	9,463	6,580	50,266
Very remote (%)	9.2	10.6	7.8	12.1	11.5	10.1	6.7	18.8	13.1	100.0
Australia (%)	9.5	13.5	5.8	10.2	12.4	12.2	4.4	11.9	20.1	100.0

MEDIAN WAGE AND SALARY INCOME (\$)

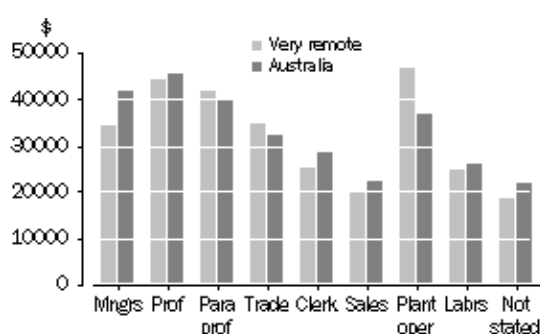
Very remote	34,150	44,304	41,680	34,832	25,273	20,162	46,708	24,726	18,776	29,132
Australia	42,061	45,549	39,620	32,470	28,583	22,150	36,925	25,970	22,052	30,470

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME BY OCCUPATION(a), Very Remote and Australia, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The distribution of male and female wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows substantial variation. Labourers and related workers (24.0%), and Tradespersons (19.0%) accounted for the largest proportion of male wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas in 2000-01. These occupation groups are common in the agriculture and mining sectors which are prevalent in Very Remote areas of Australia. In contrast, the largest proportion of females occurred in the Clerks (21.9%) and Sales and personal service workers (17.5%) groups.

The occupation group Clerks accounted for 3.0% of male wage and salary earners, while females were least represented in the Plant and machine operators and drivers group (1.0%).

In the occupation group Professionals, females had a higher proportion of wage and salary earners (13.3%) than males (8.5%). In contrast, male Managers and administrators accounted for 11.0% while females accounted for 7.0%. Proportionally, there were more female Managers and administrators in Very Remote than in any other region, while for males, the proportion was higher than any other region except Major Cities.

Apart from a slight increase in Very Remote areas there is an overall decline in the proportion of male Professionals as remoteness increases. This trend is quite different for females with the proportion of Professionals increasing with remoteness from Outer Regional to Very Remote areas. This may partly be due to more women being employed in industries such as Health and community services and Education (e.g. Health practitioners and School teachers).

Conversely, the proportion of male Para-professionals increases with remoteness from Outer Regional to Very Remote areas while for females the proportion declines from Inner Regional to Remote areas before increasing in Very Remote.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Occupation(a) by Sex, Very Remote, 2000-01

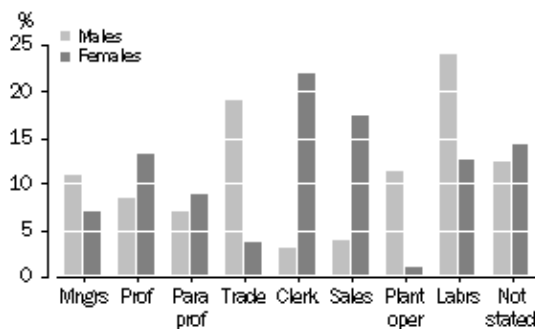
	Managers and administrators	Professionals	Para-professionals	Tradespersons	Clerks	Salespersons and personal service workers	Plant and machine operators and drivers	Labourers and related workers	Not stated	Total
Males (no.)	3,039	2,341	1,937	5,265	817	1,093	3,129	6,638	3,419	27,678
Females (no.)	1,574	3,001	1,979	832	4,942	3,952	233	2,834	3,210	22,557
Males (%)	11.0	8.5	7.0	19.0	3.0	3.9	11.3	24.0	12.4	100.0
Females (%)	7.0	13.3	8.8	3.7	21.9	17.5	1.0	12.6	14.2	100.0
Australia										
Males (%)	11.9	13.3	4.6	16.9	4.3	7.7	7.3	15.4	18.7	100.0
Females (%)	6.7	13.9	7.1	2.5	21.7	17.4	1.0	8.0	21.8	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Individual Income Tax Data.

PROPORTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By Occupation(a) and Sex, Very Remote, 2000-01



(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.
Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The proportional distribution of wage and salary earners across the occupation groups shows variation within each age group. In every age group there were proportionally more Labourers and related workers than any other occupation group. The largest proportions were in the 25-34 year and 35-44 year age groups with 4.9% and 4.8% respectively.

Other age and occupation combinations that had substantial representation were Tradespersons aged 25-34 years (3.7%) and Professionals in the same age group (3.5%). (Note: Wage and salary earners whose occupation was not stated accounted for 13.1% of all wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas).

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Age by Occupation(a), Very Remote, 2000-01

	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	no.
Managers and administrators	0.6	1.9	2.7	2.7	1.3	4,626
Professionals	1.0	3.5	3.0	2.3	0.8	5,336
Para-professionals	0.5	2.4	2.6	1.6	0.7	3,948

Tradespersons	2.6	3.7	3.0	1.9	0.9	12.1	6,079
Clerks	1.7	3.4	3.4	2.2	0.7	11.4	5,739
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.9	3.0	2.2	1.5	0.5	10.1	5,058
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.4	1.7	2.2	1.6	0.7	6.7	3,366
Labourers and related workers	3.7	4.9	4.8	3.6	1.9	18.9	9,489
Not stated	4.2	3.2	2.6	2.2	1.0	13.2	6,618
Total	17.6	27.8	26.6	19.7	8.4	100.0	50,259
Total (no.)	8,821	13,960	13,360	9,914	4,204		50,259

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

The following table shows the distribution of wage and salary income by occupation group as a proportion of all employees. In 2000-01, 9.0% of all wage and salary earners in Very Remote areas were Labourers and related workers with an annual wage and salary income in the range \$10,400 to less than \$31,200.

The prevalence of mining activities in Very Remote areas contributes to the proportion of wage and salary earners with wage and salary income in excess of \$52,000. Overall, 19.0% of employees in Very Remote areas had annual wages and salaries in excess of \$52,000. Of all such employees, around 4% were Professionals, 3.3% were Tradespersons and another 2.8% were Plant and machine operators and drivers.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Wage and Salary Income by Occupation(a), Very Remote, 2000-01

	\$1 to less than \$10,400	\$10,400 to less than \$20,800	\$20,800 to less than \$31,200	\$31,200 to less than \$41,600	\$41,600 to less than \$52,000	\$52,000 or more	Total
PROPORTION (%)							
Managers and administrators	0.7	1.5	2.0	1.9	1.3	2.0	9.2
Professionals	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.6	2.0	3.8	10.6
Para-professionals	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.4	1.4	2.5	7.8
Tradespersons	1.0	1.9	2.5	2.1	1.4	3.3	12.1
Clerks	1.8	2.7	2.9	2.4	1.1	0.7	11.5
Salespersons and personal service workers	2.3	2.9	3.1	1.2	0.3	0.2	10.1
Plant and machine operators and drivers	0.2	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.0	2.8	6.7
Labourers and related workers	3.2	4.5	4.5	2.8	1.3	2.5	18.8
Not stated	4.1	3.1	2.3	1.5	0.9	1.2	13.1
Total	14.3	19.3	20.4	16.2	10.7	19.0	100.0

(a) Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, 1st Edition.

Note: Due to the randomisation process applied to small cells for confidentiality purposes, totals for each characteristic and geographic area may differ from table to table. For further information please refer to the Explanatory Notes.

Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

Contains regional estimates for various characteristics of wage and salary earners, including age, sex, occupation and income for 2000-01. The statistics have been compiled from the

Australian Taxation Office's Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the ABS' program to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies.

Regional estimates are presented using the Remoteness Structure contained within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001. The Remoteness Structure has been designed to provide an alternative geographic classification for the dissemination of statistics which enables comparison across five broad regions of Australia that are based on remoteness or distance from services. The five remoteness areas are Major Cities, Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote Australia and Very Remote Australia.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

INTRODUCTION

1 This electronic release contains estimates of the characteristics of wage and salary earners, including age, sex, occupation and income, for the year 2000-01 for the five major regions that form the Remoteness Structure classes within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

2 These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) initiative to increase the availability of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information collected by other government agencies.

3 The ABS wishes to acknowledge the support the Australian Taxation Office has provided in compiling these statistics and in assisting the ABS in its aim to increase the range of regional data available to users of regional statistics. With such support the wide range of statistics published by the ABS is enhanced.

CONFIDENTIALITY

4 All individual income tax statistics provided to the ABS by the ATO have been in aggregated form only, at the Statistical Local Area (SLA) level. Information about individual taxpayers have not been released to the ABS. Data for the five Remoteness classes have been derived from the aggregated SLA data.

5 In addition, the statistics, prior to being provided to the ABS, have been subjected to a confidentiality process that randomly adjusts cells in tables with small values. This includes altering some small cells to zero. Caution should therefore be exercised in deducing that there are no people in an area with certain characteristics and, in general, no reliance should be placed on cells with small values in tables. The application of this process prevents the risk of inadvertently releasing any information that may identify an individual while, for most purposes, the overall information value of the statistics have not been impaired.

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

6 The main functions and responsibilities of the Australian Taxation Office are to administer taxation legislation and to collect a wide variety of taxes. The ATO therefore collects data from its reporting population as part of its processes to calculate income tax liability for those persons who are required to lodge an income tax return.

7 The ATO database covers all individuals who submit an individual income tax return and includes persons with income from one or more of a range of sources such as wages and salary, own business, superannuation, investments and government pensions, benefits or allowances. However, the scope of the ATO statistics presented in this electronic publication relate only to persons with wage and salary income, i.e. wage and salary earners.

8 As the ATO's income tax return is designed to obtain a person's total income from various sources over a financial year, and not the employment status of a person at a particular point in time (as is the case in ABS collections), wage and salary earners have been defined as:

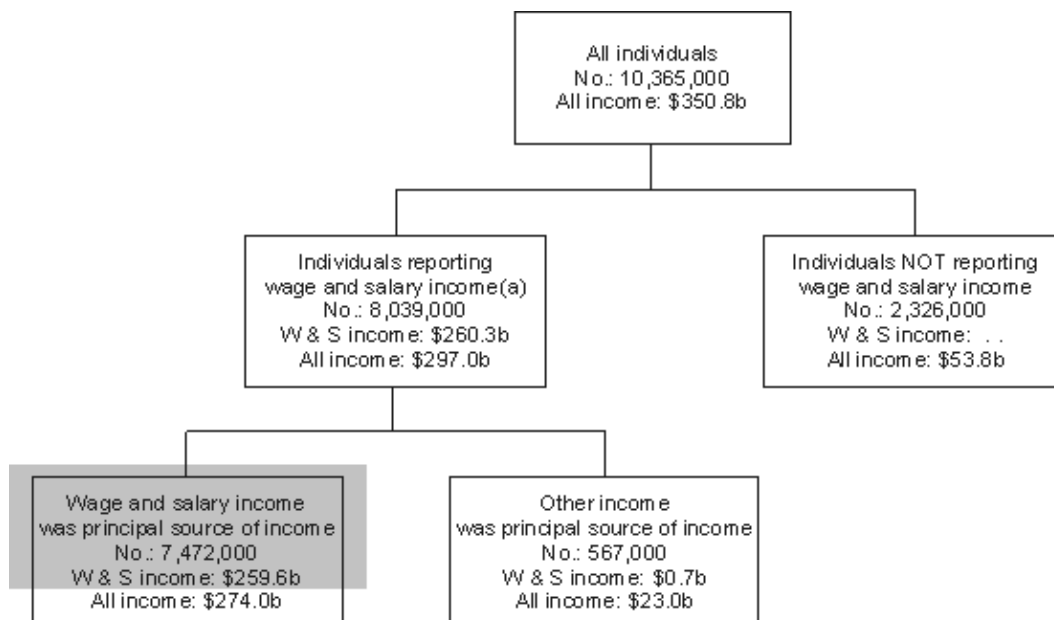
persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal (or main) source of income for the financial year.

9 Wage and salary income, as reported on the income tax return, includes gross income as shown on the 'PAYG payment summary - individual non-business' as well as allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. Allowances and other earnings may include car, travel or transport allowances, allowances for tools, clothing or laundry and dirt, risk, meal or entertainment allowances. The data to define and compile counts of wage and salary earners have been sourced from questions 1 and 2 on the 2000-01 individual income tax return. (Note: PAYG (Pay as You Go) payment summaries were previously known as Group Certificates).

10 Defining wage and salary earners in this way provides an indication of the main employment status, for the financial year, of persons submitting individual income tax returns and when combined with other characteristics of wage and salary earners included on the income tax return such as age, sex, occupation and income, valuable information about employees and employment activity in regions over time can be analysed.

11 The following diagram summarises the ABS categorisation of persons reporting wage and salary income on individual income tax returns lodged with the ATO. The shaded area represents wage and salary earners based on the ABS definition as specified above.

PERSONS LODGING INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS, Australia, 2000-01



(a) Persons reporting wage and salary income may also have other sources of income.

12 From the ATO database, and using data for 2000-01 as an example, the proportion of persons with wage and salary income as their principal source of income represents around 72% of all persons who lodged an income tax return with the ATO. Of those persons who reported any wage and salary income, the proportion for whom wage and salary income was the principal source was around 93%. The wage and salary income of these wage and salary earners represents over 99% of all wage and salary income reported and around 87% of the total income of all individuals reporting any wage and salary income. Similar proportions are also evident for other years.

REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS DATA

13 As part of the ongoing process of improving the overall accuracy and quality of the statistics compiled from an administrative data source, there has been a slight change in the way the definition of wage and salary earners has been specified from records on the ATO database for the years 1999-00 and 2000-01 in comparison to how it was specified for 1995-96 to 1998-99.

14 In broad terms, for 1999-00 onwards, lump sum and/or other non-regular payments have been excluded from the definition of principal source of income. These payments include eligible termination payments (ETPs), net capital gains and equalisation deposits and withdrawals, etc. This change aligns the definition more closely to international standards that define income as of a regular and recurring nature, received at annual or more frequent intervals.

15 Consequently, data for those tables which include the total number of wage and salary earners and total wage and salary income paid, for the four years 1995-96 to 1998-99, have been revised, providing a comparable time series for the whole period 1995-96 to 2000-01. The effect of this change is that the estimates of the number of wage and salary earners for the years 1995-96 to 1998-99 are slightly higher than those previously published in **Experimental Estimates, Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, 1995-96 to 1998-99** (cat. no. 5673.0). For example, persons receiving an ETP (i.e. question 4 on the individual income tax return in 2000-01) with a monetary value higher than that shown for wage and salary income (i.e. questions 1 and 2) would have been previously excluded from the data (i.e. not a wage and salary earner). However, with this refinement, these persons may now be defined as wage and salary earners (when their wage and salary income is their main source of income over other sources). That is, the value of the lump sum and/or other non-regular payment does not override the main employment status of the individual for the financial year as defined for the purposes of

these statistics.

REFERENCE PERIOD

16 The statistics compiled from the ATO database are based on individual income tax returns lodged for the financial year ended 30 June, regardless of the year in which they were processed. At the time of compiling the statistics for 2000-01 it is estimated that around 99.0% of returns had been processed.

STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY

17 The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) is used by the ABS for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics and its use enables comparability across datasets. The ASGC is an essential reference for understanding and interpreting the geographical context of statistics published, not only by the ABS but also by other organisations.

18 This publication presents data in accordance with the Remoteness Structure contained within the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001** (cat. no. 1216.0). This edition of the ASGC was the first to include a geographical structure describing Australia in terms of a measurement of remoteness or distance from services. The Remoteness Structure is designed to provide for statistics which compare, on the one hand the Major Cities of Australia, to, at the other extreme, Very Remote areas. Such statistics should allow regional analysts, decision makers and service providers to quantify the differences and/or similarities across the remoteness areas of Australia.

19 The Remoteness Structure is based upon the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which was developed for the former Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (now Department of Health and Ageing) by the National Key Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems (GISCA). ARIA measures the remoteness of a point based on the road distances to the nearest ABS defined Urban Centres (which are classified to five population class sizes). The basic premises of ARIA are that there are more services available in larger towns than small towns and that remoteness is a factor of the relative distance one must travel to access a full range of services.

20 The Remoteness Structure contains the following categories:

- Major Cities of Australia
- Inner Regional Australia
- Outer Regional Australia
- Remote Australia
- Very Remote Australia
- Migratory

21 As the Remoteness Structure is based on groupings of Census Collection Districts (CDs), the Migratory classification (areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs) has been added to make the structure inclusive of all CDs in Australia. However, Migratory has been excluded from the statistics presented in this publication as people do not record these areas as their residential address when completing administrative forms such as the income tax return.

22 The Remoteness Area names used throughout this electronic publication are generally abbreviated, with 'Australia' omitted from the full title name.

23 Detailed information about the Remoteness Structure can be referenced in **Information**

Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001 (cat. no. 1244.0) and **Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia, 2001** (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001). A brief description and map is also included in the **Appendix**.

24 The ABS uses geographic concordances to enable the conversion of data from one type of geographic region to another. These geographic concordances are generally used to convert data for 'non-standard areas' to data for standard areas used by the ABS. Geographic concordances (or conversions) are expressed as conversion factors based on population.

25 The geographic identifier available on the ATO database is the postcode of the current home address of the individual. Consequently, postcode to SLA conversion factors have been used to concord, or convert, ATO aggregated postcode data to estimates for statistical local areas. The wage and salary earner data for SLAs was then concorded to the Remoteness Structure. The concordances are based on the estimated resident population for each particular year. Data for 2000-01 were calculated on boundaries effective at 1 July 2001 as defined in the Detailed Main Structure of the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001** (cat. no. 1216.0).

26 An alternative method of concording ATO wage and salary earner data would have been to concord ATO aggregated postcode data directly to the Remoteness Structure. However, the difference between applying the two methods is not significant.

27 Concording data for small geographic areas such as postcodes to larger geographic areas such as SLAs and Remoteness Areas:

- minimises confidentiality restrictions as data are not output for postcodes with small populations;
- enables the data to be more easily compared with standard ABS output;
- enables the data to be output for other standard ABS geographic areas such as statistical divisions (SD), statistical subdivisions (SSD), local government areas (LGA), and in the case of the data presented here, Remoteness Structure classes; and
- provides flexibility so that data can be provided for the different regions of interest being studied by users of regional data (which are usually groupings of SLAs and/or LGAs).

28 When analysing the statistics the following limitations of the concordance methodology need to be taken into account:

- in applying the concordances it is assumed that the particular characteristics of any data item are uniformly distributed across a postcode and therefore concorded data may not truly reflect the distribution of the characteristics of the population.
- some official postcodes (e.g. PO boxes, etc.) do not correspond to residential areas but have still been reported under the current home address field. Data for these and other 'invalid' postcodes, such as those due to incorrect reporting or processing errors, have been included in an 'unknown' category for each state and territory and for Australia where the state or territory was not known.
- Data that could not be directly classified to one of the Remoteness Structure classes have been excluded from most tables. The effect of this is not significant as the population in the unknown category accounts for less than 0.6% of all persons.
- concorded figures have been rounded so discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

29 Further information concerning statistical geography is contained in **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001** (cat. no. 1216.0). A map showing the remoteness areas is available in the **Appendix**.

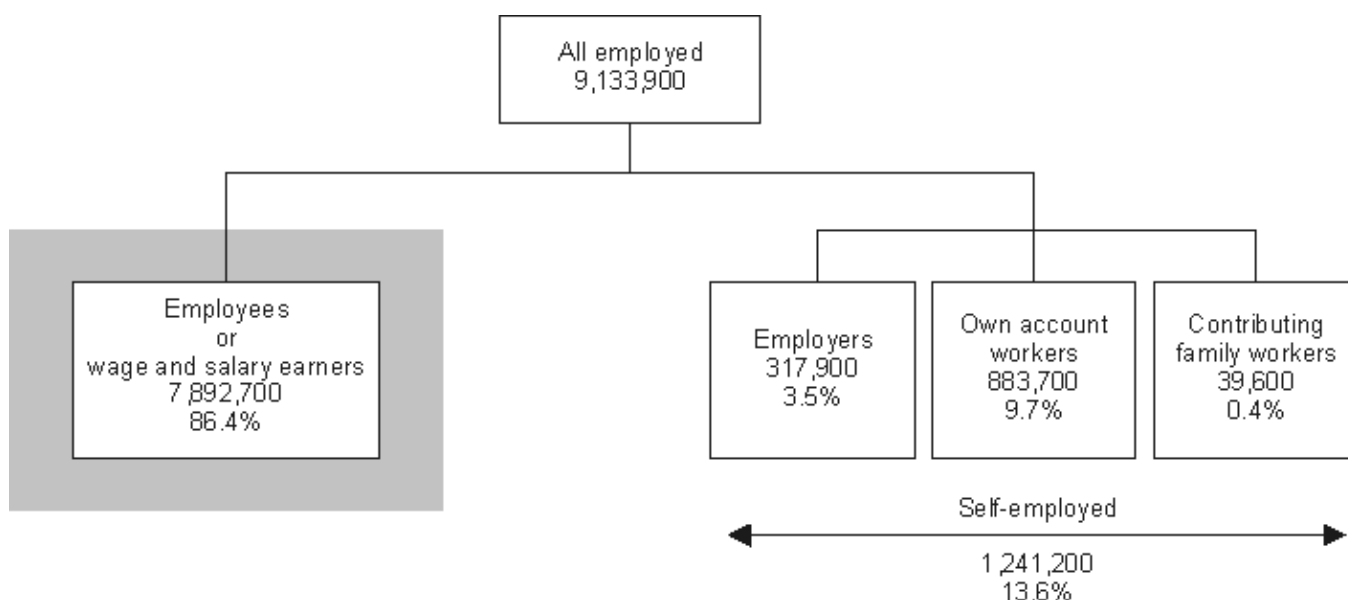
CHARACTERISTICS OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

30 The characteristics of wage and salary earners covered in this publication include age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income. Wage and salary income has been presented as a median as well as in income ranges. Various cross-tabulations (e.g. age by sex, occupation by age, etc.) are also referenced throughout the publication, however detailed tables, including data for each state and territory by Remoteness Area can be accessed through the **data cubes**. These tables are in the form of Excel spreadsheets. A complete list of the data definitions and classifications are included in the **Glossary**.

COMPARABILITY OF RESULTS WITH ABS COLLECTIONS

31 The following diagram summarises the basic components of the employed population in Australia, as defined in ABS collections. Wage and salary earners, or employees, comprise around 86% of all employed persons and as such make a major contribution to the labour market. The shaded area shows the component that the wage and salary earner estimates from ATO data attempt to represent.

ABS CATEGORIES OF EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), Australia, May quarter 2001



(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.
Source: ABS Labour Force Survey

32 Where possible the wage and salary earner estimates compiled from the ATO database have been compared with other ABS data sources such as the Census of Population and Housing, the Labour Force Survey and the Survey of Employment and Earnings. These comparisons provide a means for establishing whether counts are of an 'expected' magnitude and whether distributions across variables or regions are similar. Despite differences in purpose, concepts, definitions and reference periods, the statistics compiled from the ATO database have been found to be generally consistent in broad magnitude when compared with these other data sources. A summary of some of these comparisons are included in the previously published **Information Paper: Use of Individual Income Tax Data for Regional Statistics, Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, 1995-96 and 1996-97** (cat. no. 5673.0) and in the accompanying appendix to **Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, 2000-01, Electronic Publication** (cat. no. 5673.0.55.001).

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

33 The statistics presented in this electronic publication relate primarily to the year 2000-01. Although data are available on a similar basis for 1995-96 to 1999-2000, changes to the treatment of persons reporting Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) income in individual income tax returns have possibly produced variations in the levels of some data items, particularly for Remote and Very Remote areas. CDEP enables Indigenous persons to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in their communities.

34 From 1998-99 onwards, specific instructions were included in the ATO TaxPack regarding the treatment of CDEP payments. These instructions indicated that amounts paid from CDEP should be included under the category 'Commonwealth of Australia Government Allowances or Payments'. Prior to 1998-99 such an instruction was not included in TaxPack and, as CDEP income was generally shown on group certificates as 'CDEP Salary or Wages', it is probable that CDEP income was included under the wages and salaries category for previous years.

35 While Indigenous persons reside and work in all regions of Australia, the number of Indigenous persons in Remote and Very Remote areas relative to the total population means that the impact of these changes to the definition of wage and salary earners adopted for these data is significant for these areas.

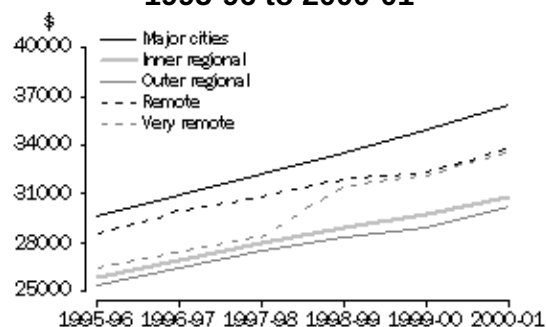
36 The exclusion of CDEP income from 1998-99 onwards is more than likely responsible for the observable large decrease in the number of wage and salary earners and conversely the upward movement in the average annual wage and salary income for Very Remote areas. The Independent Review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission's (ATSIC) CDEP Scheme, conducted in 1997, recognised that CDEP provided mostly low-paid and part-time work. ATSIC Annual Reviews in 1997-98 and 1998-99 reported that 96% of CDEP recipients were located in regional Australia (i.e. outside of metropolitan areas) with 65% being located in remote areas (which would mostly equate to Very Remote Australia in the Remoteness Structure). The annual reviews indicated that CDEP wages in remote areas were around \$195 per week. The increased number of persons included as wage and salary earners combined with the low wages and salaries paid has consequently had the effect of lowering the overall average and median incomes for Very Remote areas.

37 The following graphs highlight the effect of these changes in reporting practices with the treatment of CDEP participants. It is expected that the statistics from 1998-99 onward provide a truer and more consistent reflection of the data in these regions. Any comparisons between 1997-98 and 1998-99 and 1995-96 and 2000-01 in particular need to be treated with caution.

NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Very Remote Areas, 1995-96 to 2000-01



AVERAGE WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, by Remoteness Area, 1995-96 to 2000-01



Source: ATO Income Tax Data.

OTHER CAVEATS

38 In addition to the methodological and definitional issues already mentioned (such as the

number of wage and salary earners defined over a whole financial year rather than at a point in time, use of postcode concordances and the randomisation of small cells) some other limitations need to be taken into account when analysing the data. For example,

- a number of low income earners, including wage and salary earners, are not required to submit a tax return and therefore may not be included in the statistics. For example, where income is below the annual tax free threshold and tax was not withheld, a return is not required to be submitted to the ATO. (Note: The tax free threshold was \$5,400 for 1995-96 to 1999-00 and \$6,000 for 2000-01);
- the data do not take account of whether wage and salary earners worked on a full-time or part-time basis, had overtime earnings or had multiple job holdings. Consequently, these factors may account for some of the differences when comparing average or median wage and salary incomes or other characteristics of wage and salary earners across regions. It should also be noted that the wage and salary data exclude persons in their own business (e.g. farmers), so do not represent total employment in a region;
- some persons may move address over the course of a year and consequently their wage and salary income may not all relate to the current home address or postcode area (and therefore the SLA/Remoteness area) as reported on the income tax return;
- generally, around 95.0% of individual income tax returns for any income tax year have been processed within one year and around 99% within two years of the end the income tax year. It may be possible that a very small proportion of returns had not been processed at the time that these statistics were compiled and therefore those records would not be included in the estimates presented. No attempt has been made to estimate or revise the data for any records submitted to the ATO after these statistics have been compiled. Note: Data for 2000-01 were compiled in August 2003, around twenty four months after the end of the 2001 income tax year.

39 Overall, the limitations outlined above are considered to be relatively minor factors which do not limit the general use of the data for the broad purposes intended.

ROUNDING

40 Due to the application of both the postcode concordance and the randomisation process, totals for each variable and geographic area may differ from table to table. Concorded figures have been rounded while column and row totals have been derived after the random adjustment process has been applied. The random adjustments have been made only to very small cells, however, the more detailed a table is, the greater the likelihood of small cells being present. The randomisation of small cells has only been applied at the SLA level and for most purposes the value of the data has not been impaired. Differences in totals between tables are not significant and can be ignored.

41 Furthermore, where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals. Proportions and rates have been calculated on rounded figures and may differ slightly if calculated on the unrounded numbers.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

42 Users may wish to refer to the following ABS and non-ABS products which contain statistics relating to wage and salary earners and/or other statistics compiled from Australian Taxation Office data.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Information Paper, Use of Individual Income Tax Data for Regional Statistics - Experimental Estimates for Small Areas, 1995-96 and 1996-97, cat. no. 5673.0

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Experimental Estimates, Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, 1995-96 to 1998-99, cat. no. 5673.0

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, 2000-01, Electronic Publication, cat. no. 5673.0.55.001

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Information Paper, Use of Business Income Tax Data for Regional Statistics - Experimental Estimates, Selected Regions, Australia, 1995-96 to 1997-98, cat. no. 5675.0

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Experimental Estimates, Regional Small Business Statistics, Australia, 1995-96 to 2000-01, cat. no. 5675.0

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6203.0.

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, Australia, data cubes.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

43 For further information about these statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070, or Mark Nowosilskyj on: (08) 8237 7358 or email mark.now@abs.gov.au

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
CDEP	Community Development Employment Project
ETP	eligible termination payment
IR	Inner Regional
LGA	local government area
MC	Major Cities
OR	Outer Regional
PAYG	pay as you go
PO	post office
R	Remote
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
VR	Very Remote
\$b	billion dollars
\$m	million dollars
-	not applicable or figure not calculated

Glossary

Age

The date of birth field has been used to calculate age. Wage and salary earner data applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

Average wage and salary income

Calculated by dividing total wage and salary income by the number of wage and salary earners (as defined).

Income tax year

Refers to the financial year, i.e. 1 July to 30 June. Note: Wages and salaries for some taxpayers may not relate to a whole year's employment or may relate to more than one job during the year.

Inner Regional Australia

Imposes some restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

Local Government Area (LGA)

These areas are the spatial units which represent the geographical areas of incorporated local government councils and incorporated Community Government Councils (CGCs) where the CGC is of sufficient size and statistical significance. The various types of LGAs are cities (C), areas (A), boroughs (B), rural cities (RC), towns (T), shires (S), district councils (DC) and municipalities (M).

Major cities of Australia

Imposes minimal restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

Median wage and salary income

The median is the mid value which divides a population distribution into two, with half of the observations falling below it and half above it. Median wage and salary income has been calculated from data provided in ranges and therefore the distribution within a range has been assumed to be even. Care should be taken when using the data and the median treated as an estimate only. Medians have not been calculated for areas with small numbers of wage and salary earners.

Occupation

Taxpayers who earned wage and salary income are asked by the ATO to provide details of the title of their occupation for the job in which they earned the most wage and salary income. From the income tax return, occupation is coded to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition. In addition some ATO specific codes are also used. These are: (a) Members of the defence forces, (b) Pensioners and social security benefit recipients and (c) Unemployed persons. These specific ATO codes comprise less than 1% of the total wage and salary earner population for Australia and have been included in the category 'not stated'. Further details about the occupation classification can be referenced in **Australian Standard**

Classification of Occupations (ASCO) - Statistical Classification (First Edition), 1993, (cat. no. 1222.0).

(Note: The total number of wage and salary earners in the category 'not stated' is high at around 27% for total Australia in 1995-96, 25% in 1996-97, 24% in 1997-98, 22% in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and 20% in 2000-01. For some SLAs the 'not stated' category is as high as 50%, although in many of these SLAs the 'Members of the defence forces' category contributes significantly to the high proportion. The 'not stated' category includes non-response to the occupation question, occupation descriptions which were unable to be coded and the ATO specific codes as mentioned above. In addition, due to internal auditing purposes within the ATO, some occupations are not coded for some individuals. Most of these are lower income earners. The magnitude of the contribution of each of these groups to the 'not stated' category is unknown).

Outer Regional Australia

Imposes a moderate restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

PAYG payment summary - individual non-business

A summary received at the end of the financial year by a wage or salary earner which details amounts earned from the employer during the year and the tax withheld. (Note: Previously called Group Certificate).

Principal source of income

The source from which the most income was received during the financial year.

Remote Australia

Imposes a high restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

Statistical Division (SD)

These consist of one or more SSDs. The divisions are designed to be relatively homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable social and economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

Statistical Local Area (SLA)

These geographical areas are in most cases identical with, or have been formed from a division of, whole LGAs. In other cases, they represent unincorporated areas. In aggregate, SLAs cover the whole of a state or territory without gaps or overlaps. In some cases legal LGAs overlap Statistical Subdivision boundaries and therefore comprise two or three SLAs (Part A, Part B and, if necessary, Part C).

Statistical Subdivision (SSD)

These are of intermediate size, between SLAs and SDs. In aggregate, they cover the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps. They are defined as socially and economically homogeneous regions characterised by identifiable links between the inhabitants. In the non-urban areas an SSD is characterised by identifiable links between the economic units within the region, under the unifying influence of one or more major towns or cities.

Very Remote Australia

Imposes the highest restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.

Wage and salary earners

Persons aged 15 years and over who have submitted a tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal or main source of income for the financial year.

Wage and salary income

Includes gross income as shown on the 'PAYG (Pay As You Go) payment summary - individual non-business' as well as allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. Allowances and other earnings may include car, travel or transport allowances, allowances for tools, clothing or laundry and dirt, risk, meal or entertainment allowances, etc. The statistics were compiled from questions 1 and 2 on the individual income tax return (2000-01).

DATA CLASSIFICATIONS

Age

15 - 24 years
25 - 34 years
35 - 44 years
45 - 54 years
55 years and over

Occupation (Major Groups) - ASCO First Edition

1 Managers and Administrators
2 Professionals
3 Para-Professionals
4 Tradespersons
5 Clerks
6 Salespersons and Personal Service Workers
7 Plant and Machine Operators
8 Labourers and Related Workers
9 Not stated

Sex

Males
Females

Wage and Salary Income (Annual)

\$1 to less than \$10,400
\$10,400 to less than \$20,800
\$20,800 to less than \$31,200
\$31,200 to less than \$41,600
\$41,600 to less than \$52,000
\$52,000 or more

Remoteness Structure (Appendix)

REMOTENESS STRUCTURE

1 The Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001 (cat. no. 1216.0). is a classification maintained by the ABS, for the collection and dissemination of geographically classified statistics. The Remoteness Structure was added to the 2001 edition of the ASGC in response to a demand by users of regional statistics for a standard classification which would allow quantitative comparisons between "city" and "country" Australia, i.e. metropolitan/regional/remote or urban/rural/remote areas.

2 The Remoteness Structure is based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which was developed by the National Key Centre for Social Applications of GIS (GISCA) for the former Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (now Department of Health and Ageing). ARIA was designed to measure and classify remoteness in a physical, geographic way. It was developed as an index, based on a purely geographical methodology in which remoteness was defined on the basis of road distance from any point to the nearest town (service centre) in each of five population size classes. The population size of the service centre was used as a proxy for the availability of a range of services and road distance was used as a proxy for the degree of remoteness from those services. Consequently, ARIA is a geographical concept and does not attempt to define the broader concept of accessibility which is influenced by many factors including the socio-economic status or mobility of a population.

3 ARIA in itself does not have a spatial unit. The ARIA index has been interpolated to a 1 km grid covering the whole of Australia. However, an average ARIA Score can be calculated for any region, although the larger the spatial unit (in area) the greater the variance of ARIA score from one part of the area to another. In selecting a base spatial unit to define a classification of Remoteness in the ASGC, the ABS selected the Census Collection District (CD) because the CD is the smallest building block of the ASGC and could therefore provide the most precise definition of regions of relative remoteness.

4 The Remoteness Areas are therefore based on Census Collection Districts which have been grouped into broad geographical regions classified according to average ARIA Scores. The Remoteness Areas are: Major Cities of Australia, Inner Regional Australia, Outer Regional Australia, Remote Australia, Very Remote Australia and Migratory. The Migratory classification (areas composed of off-shore, shipping and migratory CDs) has been added to make the structure inclusive of all CDs in Australia. However, Migratory has been excluded from the statistics presented in this publication as people do not record these areas as their residential address when completing administrative forms such as the income tax return.

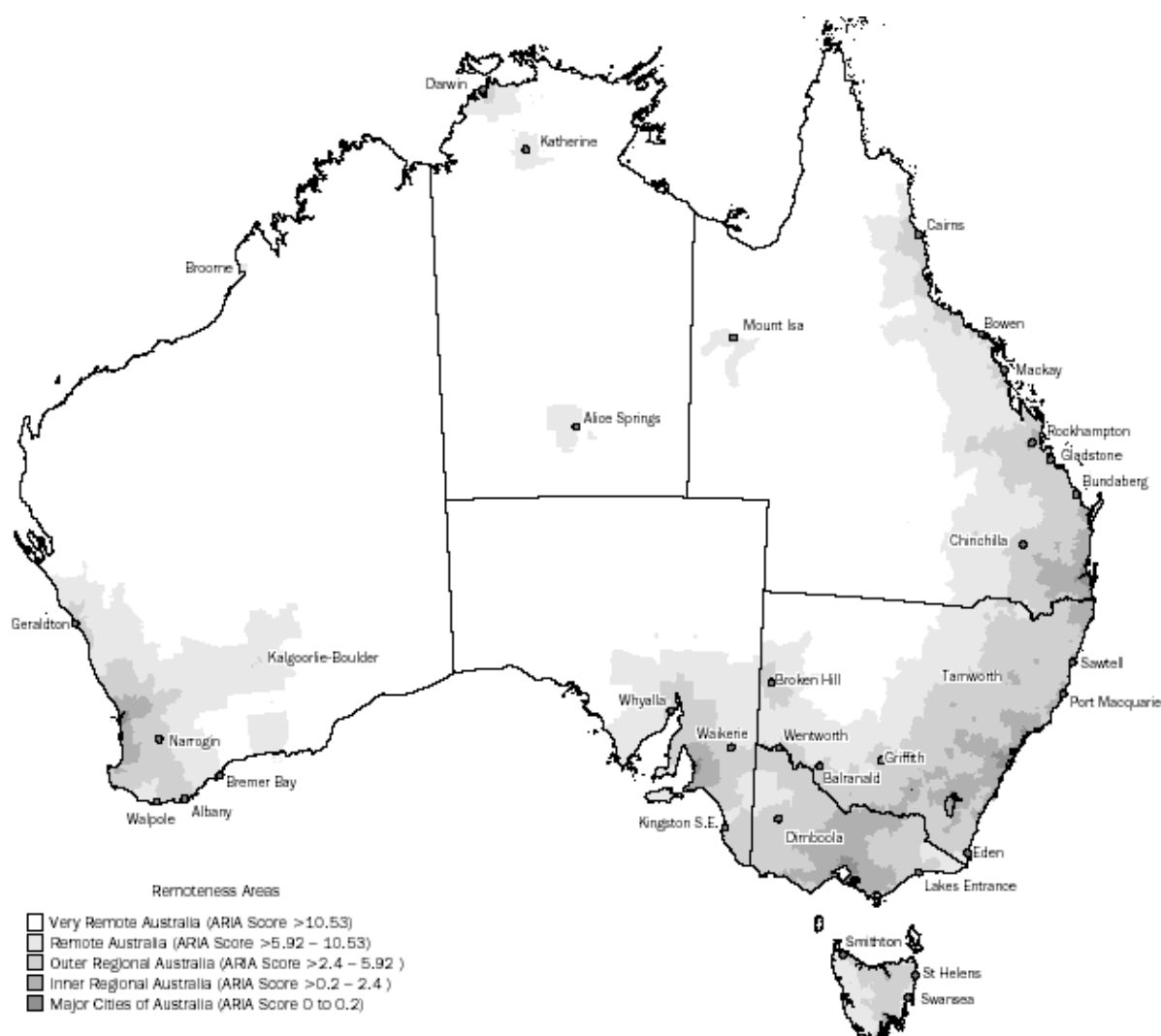
5 Descriptions and examples of each of the five Remoteness Areas are provided in the table and map below. Detailed information is available in **Information Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness, 2001 (cat. no. 1244.0)** and **Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 1244.0.00.001).**

REMOTENESS STRUCTURE - AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION

Remoteness area	Description	Examples
Major cities	Geographic distance imposes minimal restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Melbourne, Geelong, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra.

Inner regional	Geographic distance imposes some restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Tamworth, Wagga Wagga (New South Wales), Ballarat, Bendigo (Victoria), Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Gladstone (Queensland), the Adelaide Hills (South Australia), Bunbury (Western Australia), Hobart and Launceston (Tasmania).
Outer regional	Geographic distance imposes a moderate restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Broken Hill, Griffith, Gunnedah (New South Wales), Horsham, Swan Hill, Traralgon (Victoria), Roma, Cairns (Queensland), Port Augusta, Mount Gambier (South Australia), Albany (Western Australia), Burnie (Tasmania), and Darwin (Northern Territory).
Remote	Geographic distance imposes a high restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	Cobar (New South Wales), the northern Wimmera district (Victoria), Charters Towers and Cooktown (Queensland), Port Lincoln (South Australia), the Kalgoorlie gold-fields (Western Australia), parts of the West Coast (Tasmania), Alice Springs, Katherine (Northern Territory).
Very remote	Geographic distance imposes the highest restriction upon accessibility to the widest range of goods, services and opportunities for social interaction.	The far west parts of New South Wales and Queensland, northern South Australia and Western Australia, most of the Northern Territory and Flinders and King Islands in Bass Strait (Tasmania).

MAP: AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION, REMOTENESS STRUCTURE AREAS



Data Cubes (Spreadsheet Contents) (I-Note) - Data Cubes

SPREADSHEET CONTENTS

The attached spreadsheets contain various cross-tabulations of the characteristics of wage and salary earners, including age, sex, occupation and wage and salary income, for 2000-01, for the five remoteness areas as defined in the Remoteness Structure contained within the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Volume 1, 2001** (cat. no. 1216.0). Data for each state and territory, by remoteness area, are also included.

These data have been compiled from the Australian Taxation Office's (ATO) Individual Income Tax Return Database and are part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) program to increase the availability of regional statistics, particularly through the use of administrative information from other government agencies. The ABS wishes to acknowledge the support the Australian Taxation Office has provided in compiling these statistics.

All individual income tax statistics provided to the ABS by the ATO have been in aggregated form only. No information about individual taxpayers has been released to the ABS.

Details of the methodology and the definitions used to compile the statistics presented in these tables are available in the **EXPLANATORY NOTES** and **GLOSSARY**

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CLASSIFICATIONS

Age	15 - 24; 25 - 34; 35 - 44; 45 - 54; 55+
Sex	Male; Female.
Occupation	ASCO First Edition, Major Groups (1 digit) - Managers and Administrators; Professionals; Para-Professionals; Tradespersons; Clerks; Salespersons and Personal Service Workers; Plant and Machine Operators and Drivers; Labourers and Related Workers; Not stated.
Wage and Salary Income	\$1 to less than \$10,400; \$10,400 to less than \$20,800; \$20,800 to less than \$31,200; \$31,200 to less than \$41,600; \$41,600 to less than \$52,000; \$52,000 or more.